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Hafa Adai!

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Casino rakes in over $1 billion

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» IPI paid over $53.4M in taxes for 2017 to date

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC earned over $1 billion in gross gaming revenue from January to July 2017, according to documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

See CASINO on Page 4

DPS recommends autopsy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has recommended to the Office of the Attorney General to ask for an autopsy on the remains of a 37-year-old man whose body was found on the ground outside his home on Mt. Tapochau on Capital Hill last Friday afternoon.

A *Saipan Tribune* source said that DPS detectives had recommended an autopsy and that it will be the OAG

See DPS on Page 4

Project manager of MCC Int'l gets prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of five indicted for allegedly harboring illegal Chinese workers pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge yesterday as part of a plea deal and was slapped with a six-month prison term.

MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao, 43, was given credit for 12 days of time served.

Zhao pleaded guilty in federal court to unlawful employment of aliens—a misdemeanor charge. The charge

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CAR SEAT INSPECTION
Personnel of the Department of Public Safety inspect car seats during the annual Car Seat Safety Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center.
DONNA LIWAG

Scientist learns more about CNMI ocean protections

Everybody loves the ocean. But how many of us really know about marine protected areas in the CNMI? Or about our very own Mariana Trench Marine Monument, a marine protected area that is internationally recognized?

A scientist from England, Danny Morris, sought answers to those questions and spent this July and August on Saipan gathering data on this topic.

Morris is working on his master's degree at the University of York in

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INSIDE

NATION
A masked gunman opened fire at a Nashville church; at least one was killed.
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ASIA
High tide or low, when they can find a boat, the Rohingya take their chance to flee.
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WORLD
German Chancellor Angela Merkel won a fourth term.
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Local

BOE's Guerrero not keen on alternative certification

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has yet to approve the alternative teaching certification that was signed last week as a means to certify bilingual teachers for PSS.

The memorandum of agreement, entered into by executives of the Office of Indigenous Affairs, the Office of Carolinian Affairs, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, sets a proficiency exam as an alternative teaching certification for Chamorro and Carolinian teachers.

Board of Education member Herman Guerrero is disappointed with the MOA, saying that PSS was not consulted on the issue.

"I don't know where they are coming from. The [acting] commissioner [Janice Tenorio] may be there but it was not indicative of any support from the board," he said.

"The committee [The Language Policy Commission] recommended something but I am not sure…they have the mechanics within those office…. I know they want to help but just because they want to issue certification does not necessarily mean that the board will recognize it," Guerrero added.

Since 2011, the number of bilingual instructors in the CNMI has been dwindling. From 60 instructors in 2011, that number has dropped to nearly only 30 bilingual instructors, including Rota and Tinian

"What [the Board of Education] has recommended through the commissioner is to take back the proposals that she put forth and that we [the board] are going to identify people within the community who are considered to possess mastery in the language, culture and all those things," Guerrero said.

"The board will basically endorse the people and these are the same people who perhaps have done professional developments for our Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies teachers….I don't know who they [Language Policy Commission] are going to contact because they are not a university or Northern Marianas College that we will acknowledge their degree," he added.

Many proficient Chamorro and Carolinian instructors are unable to pass the rigid requirements to become an accredited instructor. The purpose of the MOA signed by OIA resident executive Roman Tudela, OCA executive assistant John Tagabuel, and DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter is to establish an alternative route to address the shortage of bilingual instructors.

The current prerequisites to certify an instructor are passing score in Praxis 1 and in Praxis 2, and 24 credits from an accredited college.

"The board has its own certification process and requirements. Hopefully, the commissioner will identify someone in the coming days, people…from the three islands…who are masters in those crafts," Guerrero said.

"If our staff takes training from these people, they take credits and it counts toward or in lieu of Praxis 1," he added.

According to Guerrero, the board is willing to listen to the commission. "Have they ever taught CCHLS course? If not, have they taken training? Those things are critical questions because it asks if they have the credentials for it."

"We are working with the commissioner's staff on the masters list. It's not a definitive list. We can keep adding on and we have a good list of people in the system that have a mastery of the language," he said.

MONTHLY CLEANUP
PDM Promoters' volunteers last Saturday, made up of 20 Saipan Awaodori members and six staff of Kinpachi Restaurant led by Misako Kamata, the restaurant's owner and director, hauled in a total of 1,080 lbs of trash during its monthly cleanup last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'CNMI government owes Settlement Fund $11.5M'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government owes the Settlement Fund $11.5 million in APGA payment for fiscal year 2016, according to Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang.

APGA stands for Alternative Payment of a Greater Amount.

Tang said the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action requires the CNMI government to make Alternative Payment of a Greater Amount equal to the difference of 17 percent of the government's total annual revenue, after deducting the amount of the Minimum Annual Payment paid.

The APGA was among the issues that Tang discussed in a report she filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on the Settlement Fund's investment accounts for fiscal year 2016 through the third quarter of fiscal year 2017.

Tang said that based on the government's audited financial statements for fiscal years 2014 to 2016, the CNMI paid $5.92 million in APGA in fiscal year 2014 and $1.21 million in fiscal year 2015.

That means there is an outstanding APGA due totaling $11.53 million for fiscal year 2016.

Tang said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had committed to working on an appropriation bill to fund the amount.

She said Torres has tentatively accepted the Settlement Fund's proposed payment schedule.

Under the proposed payment schedule, the government shall make the first payment of $3.46 million on Oct. 17, 2017, and the second payment of $4.04 million on Dec. 31, 2017. The last payment of $4.04 million will be on March 31, 2018.

On benefit payments, for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the CNMI remitted $15.148 million and $13.515 million, respectively, to the Settlement Fund for the 25 percent benefit payments.

Tang said for fiscal year 2018, the NMI Legislature passed House Bill 20-99, which appropriates the first $22 million of the casino gross revenue tax to the 25 percent benefit payments and a bonus payment to retirees.

Both payments are voluntary payments from the government, she said, and are not required under the settlement agreement.

The Senate and the House passed House Bill 20-99, but the governor has yet to sign this legislation.

Tang requested that the legislation be amended to give priority to MAP that are paid from the casino gross revenue tax.

Tang said Torres has agreed to the amendment as requested.

She assured that the Settlement Fund will continue to assist the government with processing of the 25 percent payments as an accommodation to the government so long as the CNMI continues to pay the MAP in a timely manner, remains current on its APGA payment and other settlement agreement obligations, and all payment received from the government comply with CNMI appropriation laws.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scheduled water outage today

There will be a scheduled water outage today, Sept. 26, 2017, from 8am to 5pm in the As Terlaje, Chalan Laulau (Beach Road and Middle Road) and Gualo Rai areas.

This is intended to allow a contractor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., AIC Marianas Inc., to connect a new transmission line to the existing mainline and install a new isolation valve to the new water tank at the Northern Marianas College. Required work is needed for the preparation of the disinfection and testing of the tank. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon after.

This project is part of the Tank Replacement Project and funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Completion of the project will provide a more reliable water system.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitour CIC's Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Tinian mayor to request for military assistance

The Office of the Tinian Mayor intends to solicit assistance from the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program. The assistance will include no-cost dental care and related services. The proposed assistance will take place at Tinian Health Center during the month of September 2018.

Dental providers or private citizens who have questions or who wish to voice opposition to military assistance for the project may contact Ignacio P. Kiyoshi Jr. at the Office of the Mayor at 433-1800/3222 no later than seven days after publication of this notice.

Persons not filing comments within the time frame noted will be considered to have waived their objections to military assistance for the project. Info can be found at http://irt.defense.gov/. ***(PR)***

Lions Club to celebrate 25th anniversary

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will be a host a fundraiser called "The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017" on Nov. 4 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, with VIP tickets priced at $25 and general admission at $10. Proceeds will be used for the club's community projects. Fourteen candidates will be competing. The show will be choreographed and directed by Ernie Molina. For more details and sponsorships, call SFALC president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Molina at 789-8212. ***(PR)***

OVER ALLEGED DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS, SHARES

CPA board chair sues 2 daughters, company

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The chairman of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board is suing a company and his two daughters for allegedly distributing his assets and shares in the company without his consent.

Jose R. Lifoifoi, a former House speaker, is suing Quad L's Company and his two daughters, Ignacia L. Evangelista and Remedio L. Pangelinan, both directors of that company, for conversion, unlawful taking, breach of fiduciary duty, and removal of directors by judicial proceeding.

Lifoifoi, through counsel Charity R. Hodson, asked the Superior Court to declare him as the only lawful shareholder of the corporation and to make a finding that all of his shares were distributed without his consent and void from the start.

He wants the court to direct the defendants to transfer their shares back to him and to execute the necessary documents to transfer the real property corporate assets back to the corporation.

He is demanding payment for attorney's fees and court costs, and sought a jury trial.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from the defendants.

According to Hodson in the complaint, Lifoifoi and business tycoon Larry L. Hillblom created a corporation called Nha Thrang Inc. in 1994. Until 1995, they remained the sole shareholders of Nha Thrang Inc., Hodson said.

Hillblom died in a plane crash on May 21, 1995.

In 1998-1999, Lifoifoi allegedly bought out the shares for Nha Thrang Inc. from the Hillblom estate and became the sole shareholder of the company.

Lofoifoi claimed he has not ever received dividends from the corporation since the start up until now, as he intended for the company to make a profit by taking advantage of business opportunities as they rose.

Around 1998, Lofoifoi desired for his children to begin running the company as officers and directors and expressed this desire to his children. Since then, Hodson said, the children—Ignacia Evangelista, Remedio Pangelinan, Joseph Lifoifoi, and Josephine Tajibmai—have been running his company.

Tajibmai passed away in September 2015, leaving her siblings to run the company.

In May 2016, Hodson said, Lifoifoi began his estate planning and listed his assets, including his shares of stock in Nha Thrang, which name had since been changed to Quad L's Company, or Quad Corp.

The corporation's annual report for 1998 reported that Joseph Lifoifoi, Pangelinan, Evangelista, and Tajibmai each held 250 shares of the company, and were the sole shareholders, the sole directors, and the sole officers.

On March 27, 2001, Nha Thrang Inc. amended the name of the corporation to Quad L's Company. The company's president, Evangelista, allegedly adopted the amendment.

On Dec. 28, 2001, Hodson said, the corporation's board and purported shareholders held an annual joint meeting wherein it resolved to distribute $4 per share each to Joseph Lifoifoi, Tajibmai, Evangelista, and Pangelinan.

On May 8, 2002, Hodson said, the purported board and shareholders authorized opening bank accounts, assigning signatories to the bank accounts, selling Tajibmai's 250 shares to the remaining three siblings, and amending the name of the corporation to Quad L. Corp.

Evangelista and Pangelinan were assigned as signatories.

Hodson said that Lifoifoi was not present at this meeting.

On Feb. 11, 2003, the purported board and shareholders allegedly authorized the transfer by warranty deed of lot 002 B 30 to Evangelista for $10, and directing Joseph Lifoifoi to execute the warranty deed.

On Feb 21, 2003, dividends in the amount of $3,300 each were distributed to Joseph Lifoifoi, Evangelista, and Pangelinan. Lifoifoi was allegedly not present at this meeting.

On Dec. 20, 2004, Hodson said, the corporation distributed $2,500 each to Joseph Lifoifoi and Evangelista and Pangelinan.

On May 18, 2005, Hodson said, Lot 002 B 59 was transferred to Evangelista for $10 for "CUC purposes." Lifoifoi was allegedly not present at this meeting.

In December 2005, the corporation distributed $1,500 each to Joseph Lifoifoi and Evangelista and Pangelinan.

In December 2006, the corporation distributed $2,300 each to Joseph Lifoifoi, Evangelista, and Pangelinan.

In December 2007, the corporation distributed $1,500 each to Joseph Lifoifoi, Evangelista, and Pangelinan.

On Aug. 15, 2016, Hodson said, Lifoifoi met with his counsel regarding his estate planning.

In that meeting Lifoifoi was informed that the counsel's review of the corporate documents showed not only that Lot 022 B 59 and Lot 002 B 30 had been transferred from the corporation to Evangelista, but also that Lifoifoi was not listed as a shareholder, and had not been listed as a shareholder since 1998.

On Aug. 15, 2016, Hodson said, Lifoifoi spoke with his son, and one of the listed alleged shareholders, Joseph Lifoifoi, who admitted that plaintiff had never orally or otherwise transferred his shares to his children and that for a number of years Joseph Lifoifoi had been signing off on corporate documents at the behest of Evangelista.

On Sept. 14, 2016, Evangelista and Pangelinan were served a demand and notice of potential legal action with regard to Quad Corp. from Lifoifoi's counsel, detailing the discoveries Lifoifoi had made regarding the transfers of his shares without his consent and demanding that the shares be transferred back to him and that the two subject lots be transferred back to the corporation.

Hodson said the counsel for Evangelista and Pangelinan refused to transfer the shares back, claiming that Lifoifoi knew of his children's ownership and management of the corporation.

While Lifoifoi did intend for his children to run the corporation and trusted them to do so, he had never intended to allow them to distribute his assets and shares without his consent and while he was still living, Lifoifoi's lawyer said.

To date, Hodson said, defendants have refused to take the action requested by their father.

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Senate committee attends CCC meeting

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

At the invitation of the Commonwealth Casino Commission, members of the Senate Gaming Committee attended a commission meeting with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to discuss casino matters last week.

Committee chair Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) thought the meeting was very informative relating to the progress surrounding the construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort.

"We just went there to observe their meeting because we were invited. Also, some of the issues the casino faces such as labor, statutory issues, and the completion of the project [were discussed]," Quitugua told *Saipan Tribune*.

In that same meeting, IPI reported to the commission that they were "still on target" in completing the building, despite only completing 42-percent of the third floor.

"I just hope [IPI] really assess their projects thoroughly and see if the timeline they are presenting to the commission [is] reasonable, because they have issues on personnel and they have issues on training," said Quitugua, who was also concerned with the company's ability to meet its deadline of Aug. 31, 2018, to finish construction.

IPI executives earlier affirmed with CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero that the resort would be completed before the deadline next year.

Reportedly costing $507 million, work on the 14-story resort is still currently at the third floor, raising concerns for the members of the commission.

CCC vice chair Joseph Reyes previously questioned the 62-percent reported completion of the facility. Reyes also noted that a quick inspection of the progress suggests otherwise.

Saipan boardwalk in the works

The Saipan Mayor's Office wants to create a boardwalk along Beach Road.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said a boardwalk is a good investment and could further attract residents and visitors.

Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider said he and the office would be working toward the creation of a boardwalk during Apatang's term that will end next year.

The project will be a collaborative effort with the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and many other agencies on Saipan that deal with both beautification and the island's preservation.

The plan is to establish a boardwalk near the Atkins Kroll intersection that will start from the beach shore and stretch about 50 feet into the ocean.

According to Hofschneider, the boardwalk will most likely connect to the existing Beach Road Pathway.

Although nothing is set in stone, a boardwalk will not only be an attraction, but it could also encourage people to walk the pathway in order to reach the boardwalk. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

SCIENTIST

From Page 1

England under the guidance of Dr. Callum Roberts and Dr. Julie Hawkins, leading researchers in the field of ocean sciences. These scientists study the ocean and marine life all over the world.

Roberts is an expert on coral reef biology and he also studies the relationship between humans and marine ecosystems. Hawkins researches the environmental benefits of marine protected areas.

Since the Mariana Trench Monument in the CNMI is one of the world's most unique marine protected areas—having animals that are not found anywhere else—Morris wanted to learn how the CNMI felt about ocean protection.

According to Morris, the Mariana Trench Marine Monument is very special and it was the CNMI's conservation ethic that drew him to Saipan to conduct his research.

"Having a highly diverse ecosystem with many species in the deep waters that are yet to be discovered by scientists is so unique," he said. "And I wanted to see some of that for myself."

The Mariana Trench was declared a national marine monument over eight years ago, and was one of the first very large marine protected areas on the planet. "I wanted to come learn about how that is viewed in the community," Morris said.

While on Saipan, Morris interviewed over 200 U.S. citizens to gain a better understanding of their view of marine protected areas around the Northern Mariana Islands.

He spoke mainly to Chamorros, Carolinians, Filipinos, and other Micronesian ethnicities. People who were not citizens were not allowed to be surveyed.

He spent time in public places speaking to passersby. He asked general questions about ocean protection, and more specific questions on marine protected areas and the Mariana Trench Marine Monument.

According to scientists, at least 30 percent of the world's ocean must be protected. While the Mariana Trench Monument seems to be a large protected area it is actually less than 5 percent of U.S. waters.

Scientists say that marine protected areas like the monument provides sanctuary to many marine animals so they can reproduce and move to other areas.

They also say that marine protected areas are important to safeguard fragile animals like corals, and to protect species that are found nowhere else.

Ignacio V. Cabrera, who chairs the organization Friends of the Monument, said he was happy to hear from Morris.

"It made me smile to know that these young scientists are taking an interest in what we have here," Cabrera said.

When not doing surveys, Morris spent time with families in the community. Chailang Palacios and Bob Power hosted Danny at their home for several weeks.

"He's a wonderful and polite young man," said Palacios. "It was great fun for us to have him with us."

He was also introduced to a variety of people including Agnes McPhetres, a co-founding chair of the Friends of the Marianas.

Morris is now in England finishing his thesis to complete his master's of science degree in Marine Environmental Management. The results of Morris' study are expected to be released in the coming weeks. ***(PR)***

PROJECT

From Page 1

of harboring illegal aliens, a felony offense that carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years, was dropped.

The workers entered the CNMI as tourists but later worked on the Pacific Imperial International CNMI LLC casino resort in Garapan.

After serving his prison term, Zhao will be placed on six months of supervised release. He was ordered to pay an $11,000 fine.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who presided over the case, said that Zhao, as a guest worker in the CNMI, should respect the laws of the host country.

Manglona said it is a privilege to be in the CNMI to earn a lawful living, but Zhao violated U.S. law.

The judge said that what Zhao committed is a nonviolent crime but his unlawful conduct involved a lot of people's lives and households.

Manglona noted that in the crime that defendant pleaded guilty to involved 15 illegal aliens, but in fact there were 180 reported illegal aliens involved.

Manglona said that a prison term is appropriate.

The judge said the original crime charged against Zhao with a serious felony that carried a maximum prison sentence of 10 years. Zhao should be grateful because someone died at the construction site and that he was not held liable for that, Manglona said.

She said the $11,000 fine imposed on Zhao is the amount that he got from the operation and that she would not allow him to walk away with the money when others suffered.

When Zhao was arrested, authorities recovered $11,000 from him that he reportedly earned during his work with the casino/resort project.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, who prosecuted the case, said that under the plea agreement, the minimum fine is $10,000 but the $45,000 that is authorized is too high.

O'Malley said the six months contemplated in the plea deal is appropriate and this would send a message to others in Zhao's position that they have to obey U.S. laws or they have to pay a heavy price.

O'Malley said this is a "big machine operation" and that Zhao's role is only part of that operation.

O'Malley said Zhao was not involved in the actual recruitment of the workers as his role was pretty much signing checks to make payments possible.

The prosecutor said that, on Aug. 1, 2016, and continuing to March 2017, Zhao hired 15 aliens, but he knew were not authorized to work in the U.S. or in the CNMI.

Zhao, through an interpreter, said he did sign the checks and invoices for payment to aliens who were working illegally.

Attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Zhao, said the defendant wants to serve the sentence right away and go back to his family in China.

A separate indictment charged Beilida Overseas president Hui Lu and Beilida's Wencai Guo, Xiufang Qi,and Hongwei Ma with harboring illegal aliens.

The indictment alleges that on March 8 through March 22, 2017, Lu, Guo, and Ma harbored an illegal alien, Yuanyou Hu, who was killed after falling from a scaffold at the construction site of the Imperial Pacific casino and resort project in March 2017.

On Feb. 7 through March 22, 2017, Lu, Guo, Qi, and Ma allegedly harbored six illegal aliens.

MCC International is the construction contractor for Imperial Pacific. Beilida Overseas is among its subcontractors.

DPS

From Page 1

that will decide whether or not there is a need for Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola to come and do an autopsy on the remains of Allan James Boyer Dela Cruz.

When asked yesterday about DPS' recommendation, chief prosecutor Michele Harris said the case "is still under review." She did not elaborate.

Dela Cruz's body had been taken to the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue for further investigative and preservative purposes, according to a statement from Lt. Jason Tarkong, the acting DPS spokesman.

In the statement, Tarkong said that police responded on Friday at 2:14pm to a report about a dead person at a house on Mt. Tapochau.

Police met at the scene witnesses who found Dela Cruz's body.

Investigators said the victim was found lying on the ground outside the residence and the body was already in the late stages of decomposition.

Witnesses reportedly attempted the past few days to contact Dela Cruz, but he did not reply. The witnesses then decided to check on him at his residence and discovered the body.

A source said police investigators believe that Dela Cruz was possibly already dead a week before his body was found.

Dela Cruz was staying alone in the house as his parents are in the U.S. mainland. He worked as an analyst at the Commonwealth Casino Commission, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

CASINO

From Page 1

The official documents, obtained from the Commonwealth Casino Commission, showed that, factoring in the 5-percent business gross revenue tax, IPI paid the Commonwealth government a total of $53.4 million for the period from January to July 2017.

In a month-by-month comparison, the casino garnered the most revenue during the start of the year, raking in over $327.3 million in gross gaming revenue in January 2017 alone, and weakening in April 2017, which yielded a gross gaming revenue of a little over $56 million.

The casino's gross gaming revenue in May 2017 picked up the pace, garnering its second highest gross gaming revenue of over $242.5 million.

June showed gross gaming revenue at $90.1 million, while July garnered $133.2 million.

Casino revenue in August 2017 has yet to be posted.

The casino commission noted that the figures provided were strictly casino-generated.

The casino, like every other business, is required to pay a 5 percent business gross revenue tax, or BGRT.

The largest single contribution IPI paid based on the gross gaming revenue is $16.3 million in January 2017.

Its May payment came second at $12.1 million, while March 2017 is the third largest single contribution at $7.4 million.

Altogether, IPI paid the CNMI a total of $53.4 million in BGRT.

New venue

Compared to the June gross gaming revenue of $90.1 million, the casino showed a substantial revenue increase during its first month at the permanent location—the ground floor of the Imperial Pacific Resort. The live training facility at T Galleria moved across the street to its permanent location in early July.

The July gross gaming revenue amounted to $133.2 million, a 47.81-percent increase from the previous month, their last month at the T Galleria.

It is also worth noting that the casino's gross gaming revenue has been seesawing, with revenues going up as high as nine-digit during odd-numbered months and eight-digit figures during even-numbered months such as February, April, and June.

2017 BUSINESS SUMMIT

Turn your bright idea into a business

The Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce are inviting the community to the 2017 Business Summit on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

The 2017 Business Summit will center on the theme "Aspire to Own," which speaks to the renewed spirit of entrepreneurship in the CNMI. The summit features local entrepreneurs sharing their experience and insight about the opportunities and challenges of starting and operating a successful business in the CNMI.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that now is a great time for young and aspiring entrepreneurs to enter the economy and lead the way for the new generation of locally-owned businesses.

"I highly encourage anyone with a dream to attend and listen to some of the best folks in our business community. Since coming into office, this government has witnessed more than 1,500 new businesses open up shop to provide goods and services, offer new restaurant opportunities, and accommodations for our tourists. To those dreams still waiting to be chased, the resources are here, the market is growing. The time is now to make your dream a reality. Your government is standing ready to support you. We are your partners, and we are committed to making sure you achieve success," Torres said.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman said the summit will offer attendees the opportunity to interact with a diverse selection of successful corporations, federal and local government agencies, educators, and financial institutions.

"In line with the administration's economic vision, summit attendees will gain valuable knowledge, insight, and practical tips on how to start a business and strategies for succeeding in the CNMI's economic landscape," Rabauliman said.

Topics will include capitalizing business ventures, identifying appropriate market strategies, identifying opportunities, logistics (import/export) and understanding business interaction with the federal and local government.

The summit is for everyone, even if they are undecided about opening up a new business, said Small Business Development Center administrator Nicole Babauta.

"We invite all residents of the CNMI to attend. The Business Summit will present an impressive lineup of speakers. Whether you are considering getting into business or you are an established business, this is an event to attend. Through the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation, the CNMI's economy can continue to foster growth and development. The goal is to engage citizens of the CNMI aspiring to be entrepreneurs to enter into the business community. Join leaders from the private and public sectors in their efforts to launch new and aspiring entrepreneurs," Babauta said.

Summit attendees can also enjoy free professional headshots and an entrepreneur training program at the mini-expo after the summit.

Registration for the 2017 Business Summit begins that day on Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 7:30am. Space is limited, so the community is encouraged to be there early. ***(PR)***

NMC-CREES presents 4-H Riptide

The Family, Community and Youth Development program within the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension & Educational Services is seeking students to participate in their new program 4-H Riptide!

The program is dedicated to serving as an educational resource for children to learn about the CNMI's culture and environment.

The program aims to teach participants through various presentations and activities about how important the CNMI's environment is, and to help reestablish an understanding of our islands to help preserve cultural values and beliefs.

4-H Riptide will be held at different locations on Saipan. These locations include San Antonio, Gualo Rai, Koblerville, Chalan Kanoa, and Tanapag.

The first session will be held at the San Antonio Youth Center starting on Oct. 2 to Oct. 14, 2017. 4-H Riptide will run Monday to Friday on the first week, and Monday to Saturday on the second week. The program will be from 3:30pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday, while Saturday will be from 8:30am to 12pm.

The registration deadline is on Sept. 29, 2017. Seating is limited to 25 slots so register as soon as possible. The slots are a first come, first serve basis. Participants must be between the ages of 7-15.

For more information on how to register your child, contact Lorenza Aldan or Maia Pangelinan at 237-6876 or email 4hmarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Elmore selected as FYLPRO delegate

University of Guam graduate student Rebecca Elmore was recently selected to represent Guam in the Philippine Embassy's Filipino Young Leaders Program, a weeklong, expenses-paid immersion program in the Philippines. Every year, 10 delegates are chosen to represent their districts.

Elmore

Elmore is currently pursuing a master's in Public Administration at UOG. She earned a bachelor's with Latin honors in Mass Communication in 2013 from the University of Colorado Denver.

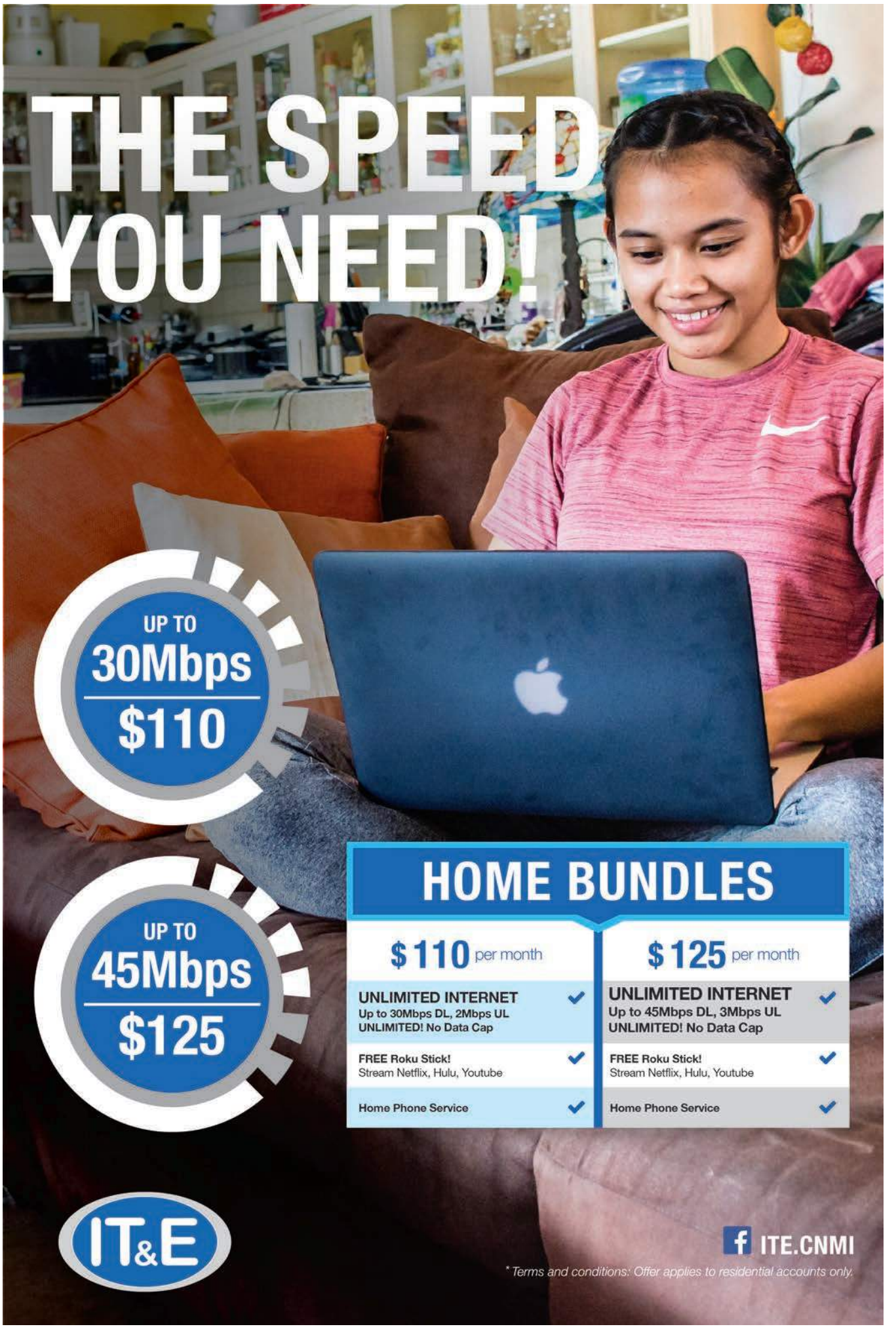
Elmore is an anchor and reporter for the Pacific News Center. She intends to employ her communications skills both as a journalist and social justice advocate toward the advancement of the local Filipino community. She is also co-founder of *Sibol*, a Filipino organization in Denver, Colorado intent on creating a community of service-oriented and ethical leaders.

"It is an immense honor to represent our island in a prestigious program such as the FYLPRO delegation. I look forward to working closely with the Philippine Embassy and Consul General Marciano de Borja to highlight [the Filipino community on Guam]," she said.

Dr. John J. Rivera, the University of Guam's School of Business and Public Administration's Graduate Program chair, says, "We are extremely proud of Miss Elmore. She is a wonderful ambassador and testament to the value of the University of Guam and spirit of the people of Guam."

Elmore is the second UOG MPA student who has been selected to the FYLPRO program. In 2016, UOG MPA alumna Maria Teresa "Dondi" Leonidas Quintans participated in the program. Quintans is currently serving on the 2017 FYLPRO board and is the program's president-elect.

FYLPRO is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) of high-performing, next-generation leaders that have a passion for advancing the Philippines and the Filipino people. FYLPRO was established in 2012. ***(UOG)***



IPI-CSR backs Preparedness Month softball tourney

The Commonwealth Preparedness Month was successfully staged during the week of Sept. 18 to 23, with Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team being credited for its all-out support.

That included assisting in running the event, financial donation for commercial and food vendor services, and providing tokens.

IPI-CSR's participation is also to helped spread awareness in the community on the value of preparedness for disasters. ***(PR)***

Champions: Team Sofa King Good is congratulated by Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team and organizers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The IPI-CSR team celebrates with second place winner Akkari.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third place winners The Sweet Rolls, with IPI-CSR presenting the prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another activity was the mini art/drawing activity for children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CPM tournament was also designed to be family-friendly, with IPI-CSR staff setting up children games and activities.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific's CSR team helps run the softball tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific CSR staff, along with volunteers, prepare the field on Day 5 of the competition.

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Imperial Pacific CSR ensures that the field is dry and safe for players.

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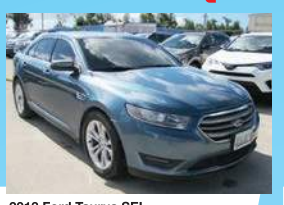
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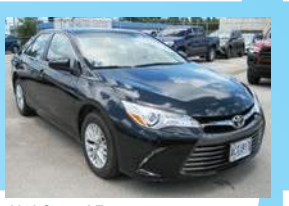
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13 fishermen commemoration aids in recovery

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Florence Selepeo's brother was one of 13 fishermen aboard the M/V *Olwol* that was lost at sea 30 years ago. She has since learned to re-channel her grief by honoring Sylvester's memory, along with the rest of his fellow fishermen who were lost at sea in 1987 by helping organize an annual commemoration ceremony at the 13 Fishermen's Monument along Beach Road.

Selepeo was once again at it last Saturday, gathering with the families of these men at the monument to honor their memory. She said the annual ceremony has helped her find peace within herself. For years, Selepeo has struggled to move on from the loss of her brother and many of her other relatives.

"I have since come to accept it," she said. "We have to let go."

A factor that has helped Selepeo and many of the victims' families was transforming the traditional memorial ceremony into a sort of celebration ceremony.

"It really helped and it opened up the door for others to partake," she said.

For 29 years, the ceremony was only open to the families of the deceased fishermen but they have since opened it up to the community. Selepeo believes this is the way it should be—that the fishermen be celebrated and the community be welcomed to join.

According to Selepeo, a traditional Mass was held in the fishermen's honor but it was held last Sunday at the Chalan Kanoa Cathedral.

The 13 fishermen had set off for a fishing expedition to the Northern Islands on Sept. 23, 1986. Besides Selepeo, the other fishermen were Joseph T. Lisua, Martin L. Saures, Pedro L. Mettao, Joseph R. Kaipant, Benusto M. Lisua, Juan Benusto R. Olopai, Isidro R. Romolor, Jovencio C. Falguera, Joaquin L. Moteisou, Jose T. Igisaiar, Enrique L. Moteisou, and Guillermo Saures.

Their names were carved into the monument along Beach Road. Two other names of fishermen, Emilio T. Lisua and Antonio S. Fitial, were also etched on the monument since they passed away that same day.

Saturday's ceremony also honored the memory of late representative Jesus P. Mafnas who donated the monument.

Selepeo also said the ceremony honors the memory of Sue Mafnas, the wife of late representative Jesus Mafnas, after passing away just weeks before the memorial ceremony.

The ceremony started off with a prayer, laying of *mwars* and flowers on the monument by the family members of the deceased, and then a feast for the family members of the deceased and for all who were present at the ceremony last Saturday.

Triple J Saipan joins Toys for Tots campaign

From left, Triple J officials Perry Inos Jr., Jay Santos, and Mike Sablan, Gunnery Sgt. Donald McClester, SYP representative Janel Pangelinan, and Saipan Chamber executive director Jill M. Arenovski. At the back, from left, Triple J's Mario Valentino, Donovan Castro, Tracy Guerrero, Norisa Camacho, and MariaValentina Haberman.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Gunnery Sgt. Donald McClester, Josephine Palacios, Eddeza Labador, Jaydene Ermitano, Jill M. Arenovski, and Jay Santos.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce—the Saipan Young Professionals—is working with the U.S. Marine Corps on a Toys for Tots campaign in the CNMI.

The program aims to collect unwrapped toys during the months leading up to the holiday season, and then distribute as Christmas gifts to less fortunate youth.

The Toys for Tots campaign was initiated in 1947 in Los Angeles, Calif., to help children in the aftermath of World War II. To date, the program has collected more than 512 million toys during the last 70 years to over 237 million children.

Sharing in the core value of supporting the growth and development of CNMI youth, Triple J Saipan, Inc. helped launch the campaign locally, including Tinian and Rota.

Three Triple J companies—Great Harvest Bread Co., Truongs Vietnamese Restaurant, and Capricciosa Restaurant—will host monetary donation boxes countertop for anyone who can make monetary donations:

Two Triple J locations—the Triple J Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa and the Bubba Gump Shrimp Restaurant in Garapan—will host large donation boxes for those who have unwrapped gifts to drop off.

"Triple J Saipan, Inc. is committed to working with local charities to support the growth and development of the CNMI and the Toys For Tots campaign tugs at the strings of the heart—giving to our youth who are in need," said Mike Sablan, vice president, Finance and Administration. "With the community's generosity, together we can give a child the gift of a magical holiday season. It takes all of us, working together, to make real changes."

The Toys For Tots drive will run until Dec. 14. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Aghurubw commemoration on Saturday

One of the main activities that will mark the celebration of September as Cultural Heritage Month is the 47th Annual commemoration of Chief Aghurubw on Managaha Island on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017.

This year's commemoration highlights this year's celebration of 202 years since the first settlement of the Carolinians in the Marianas in the year 1815.

On behalf of the Carolinian community, the Chief Aghurubw Foundation, the Refaluwasch Advisory Council, and the Office of the Executive Assistant for Carolinian Affairs, the public is invited to join in this memorial celebration of Chief Aghurubw.

Chief Aghurubw, the legendary Carolinian chief and traditional navigator, set sail from Satawal in the Western Caroline Islands over 200 years ago, to seek refuge for his people when a major typhoon devastated their islands.

Oral and written history passed through generations spoke of how in 1815, Chief Aghurubw braved uncertainties ahead to relocate his people, many of whom faced starvation through losses suffered from the typhoon. He navigated the voyage to the Marianas and paid a visit to then Spanish Gov. Medinilla on Guam and asked permission for the resettlement on Saipan. Medinilla granted official approval and bestowed Aghurubw with a legal certificate, a cane, and a top hat, signifying Medinilla's approval of settlement.

Chief Aghurubw was often seen wearing the hat, which earned him the nickname "*Parung*" (hat).

The official approval from Medinilla distinguished Chief Aghurubw as a paramount chief. Upon his death, members of his clan, the *Ghatoliyóól* Clan, carried out his wish that he be buried on Managaha Island (*Ghalaghal*). And as the burial ground of Chief Aghurubw, Managaha Island has become and is well respected as a sacred ground by the Carolinians; which leads to the island's historical and cultural significance.

In memory of Chief Aghurubw, a monument was erected on Sept. 18, 1970, on Managaha, heralding the "First Official Annual Commemoration of Chief Aghurubw." His statue, which stands today on Managaha, commemorates his achievements and leadership to assure of his people's safety and welfare.

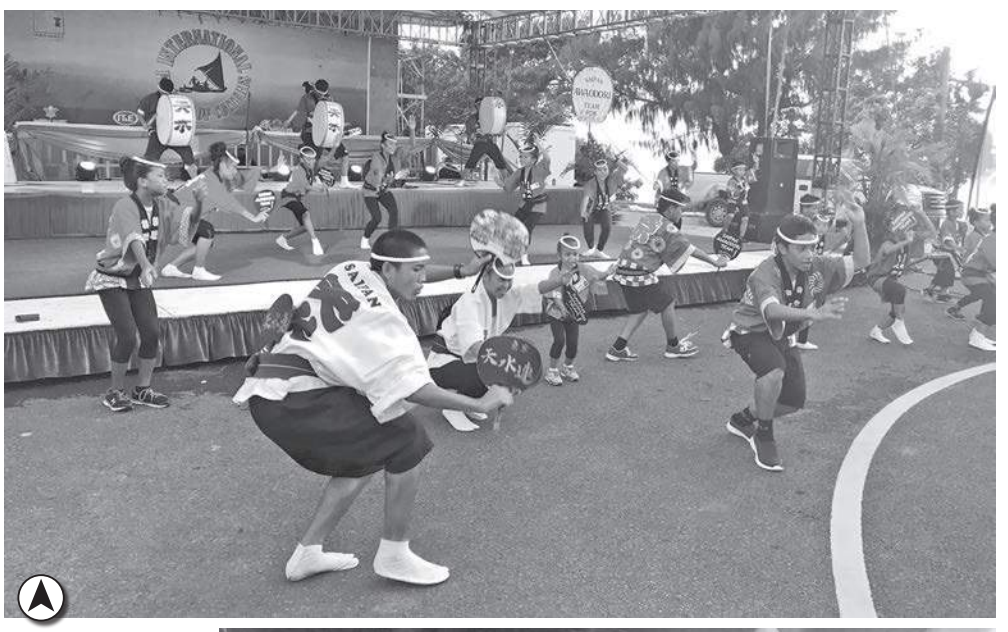
The annual tribute to Chief Aghurubw will include boat trips to and from Managaha, a commemoration Mass, official remarks, lunch, and traditional performances. Following are the schedules for boat transfers to and from Managaha from Smiling Cove Marina:

1.	Jambalaya (Saipan Sea Ventures)	
	Departing from Outer Cove Marina	8am, 10:30am
	Departing from Managaha to Outer Cove Marina	3:30pm, 4:30pm
2.	Haggan Tasi	
	Departing from Inner Cove, Marina	7:55am
	Departing from Managaha to Inner Cove Marina	4pm

The public is invited to attend the commemoration event. For more details and schedule of events, call Carolinian Affairs Office at 234-6385 or log onto the Chief Aghurubw Foundation Facebook page. ***(PR)***

International Festival of Cultures

Local craftswoman Tau TaoAhine poses with her handmade jewelry during the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Awaodori group performs a traditional Japanese dance during the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Many came out last Saturday to witness the different cultural demonstrations showcased at the International Festival of Cultures.
KIKIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Individuals admire the handcrafted Filipino-inspired jewelry that was showcased at the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

An individual admires the handcrafted Federated States of Micronesia-inspired jewelry that was showcased during the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

In the Japanese community booth, children learn the art of mastering the famous Japanese toy called the *kendama* during the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday.
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These women perform a traditional Ponpheian dance at the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday.
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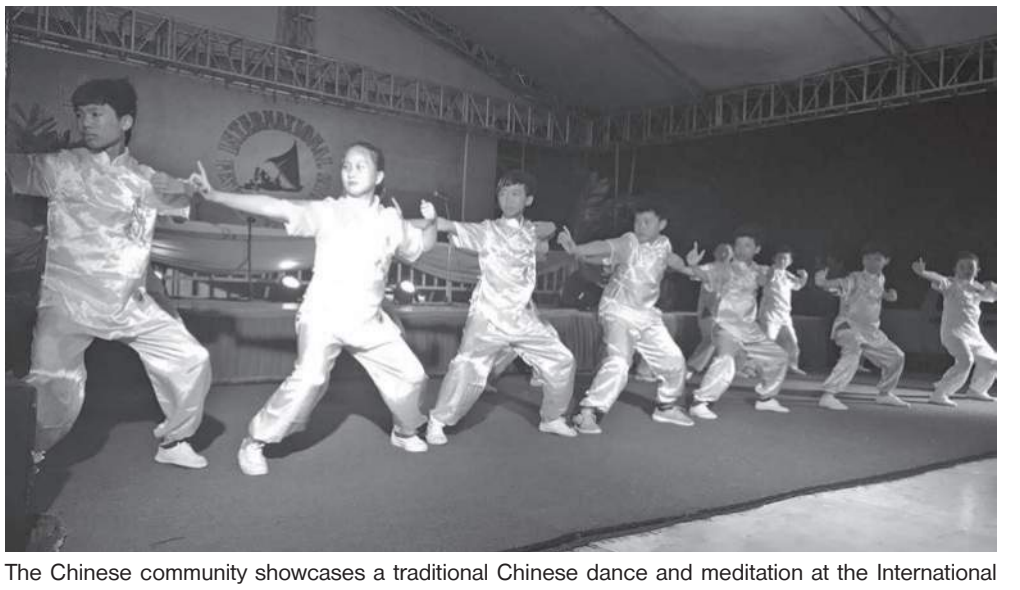

The Chinese community showcases a traditional Chinese dance and meditation at the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Opinion

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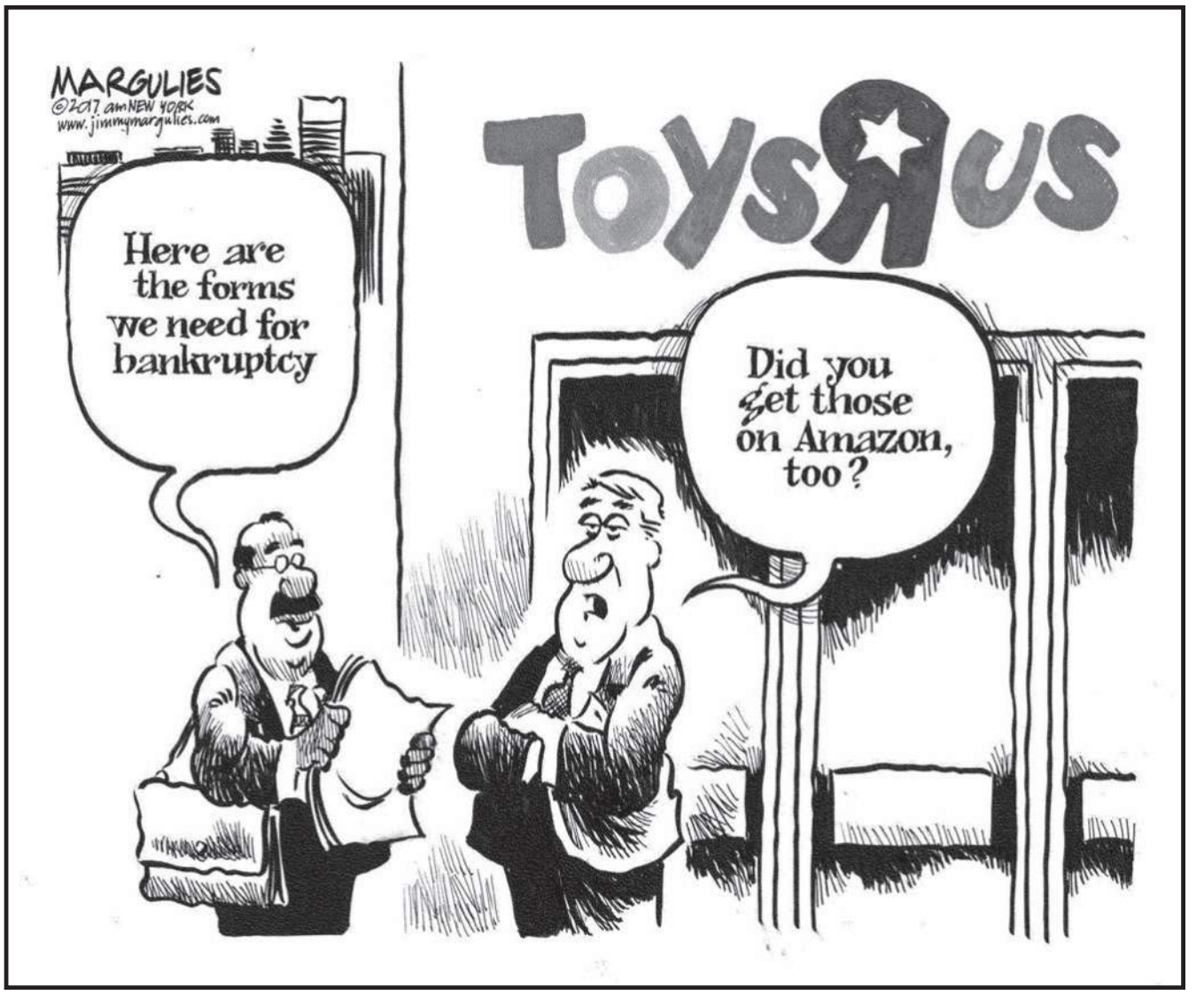


EDITORIAL

Use today's pain to withstand future natural disasters

The chronicle of devastation from what seems like an endless run of natural disasters has been difficult to fathom. Who hasn't been moved by the tragic images emerging from Mexico, Puerto Rico and its island neighbors, even as homes in Houston and Florida remain sogged with floodwater.

People clawing rubble with bare hands, passing buckets of debris, pausing in eerie silence, looking for children.

Buildings leveled by savage winds, roads turned into rivers, lush landscapes stripped of greenery and nearly bereft of life, all across the Caribbean in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Yet, our spirits also have been buoyed by the spectacle of nations around the world responding. In Mexico, rescue and recovery specialists have poured in from the United States, Spain, Japan, Israel and other Latin American countries. Coast Guard, National Guard and other rescue teams from many states, including New York, deployed to Texas after Hurricane Harvey, then to Florida after Irma, and now to the Caribbean. As we see time and again, the worst that people face brings out the best in humanity _ national and international cooperation, making all of us stronger.

While the immediate focus is on rescuing victims, massive recovery efforts await. It will be a sustained test of government on all levels, and there is no choice but to ace this exam. Houston, the Florida Keys, and other parts of both Texas and the Sunshine State still face great duress.

Puerto Rico and its island brethren face special hardships. There are no highways on which to bring in crews to restore power, or for people to get out. No power means no communications or coordination in the recovery effort. Even buildings that had generators will run out of fuel shortly.

Many Americans have family and friends in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and know well the other islands that were devastated. Recovery in these places is a military mission now, but supplies and resources will be needed for a long time to come. Let's be generous to those who were less fortunate this time. Once the recovery effort is underway, it's just as important to begin a deliberate and parallel effort to learn from these disasters. Some experts suggest creating disaster review boards, local or national. Whatever the mechanism, we must analyze what happened _ not as a partisan exercise in assigning blame, but as a dispassionate debrief to best guide the way forward.

Was pre-storm preparation adequate? Was the response appropriate? How and where do we rebuild? What zoning and building codes must be changed? Ap-

See USE on Next Page

Will Trump's 'Rocket Man' speech lead us to war?

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

The ostensible purpose of President Donald Trump's speech at the United Nations on Tuesday was to explain to the world why "America First" is an idea other countries should embrace. It was to be "a deeply philosophical address," a White House official promised. Instead, the speech will inevitably be remembered for just two words: "Rocket Man," Trump's derisive nickname for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Never mind grand strategy. Trump made sure the media's favorite soundbite would be a schoolboy taunt and a threat of mass annihilation.

"Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and his regime," the president told the world's diplomats. "The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea."

The problem with Trump's threat wasn't only the juvenile language he chose, or that it inevitably distracted attention from the rest of his message. His taunt, far from serving an underlying strategy, was probably counterproductive.

Ridiculing Kim Jong Un is "more likely to persuade North Korea to increase its nuclear weapons and missiles than limit them (or) give them up," warned Richard Haass of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Successful diplomatic negotiators usually take pains to treat their adversaries with respect and provide them a dignified way to retreat from their original positions. That often means offering positive incentives as well as threats, carrots as well as sticks.

Trump didn't do any of that. He said the only way for North Korea to defuse the crisis was to give up its entire nuclear program. He offered no guarantee that the regime would be secure if it took that risky step (although his secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, has said the United States does not seek regime change). Trump made a maximum demand, added a maximum threat and tossed in a gratuitous insult.

That approach may have worked in New York real estate, but it's less likely to succeed against a deeply suspicious sovereign state with nuclear weapons.

Oh, yes: sovereignty. That was supposed to be the president's "deeply philosophical" theme. Trump called repeatedly for a world of "strong, sovereign nations" in which each country would defend its own interests—a universal version of "America First."

"We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone," he promised. "We want harmony and friendship, not conflict and strife. We are guided by outcomes, not ideology."

But he added an important caveat. He said every government has two "sovereign duties": to refrain from threatening other countries, and to "respect the interests of their own people."

And he listed countries that apparently don't deserve all the benefits of sovereignty, because they've broken one of those rules.

One, of course, was North Korea, whose nuclear program threatens its neighbors. That's an easy case.

But he also denounced Venezuela, because its socialist government "has inflicted terrible pain and suffering on (its) good people. ... This situation is completely unacceptable."

And he denounced Iran, not only for interfering in other countries, but also for repressing its own citizens.

"Oppressive regimes cannot endure forever," he warned, and hinted, again, that the United States might walk away from the 2012 agreement under which Iran halted its nuclear program.

Sovereignty for me, in other words, but maybe not for thee.

In the case of Iran, Trump has now threatened to abandon a six-nation nuclear agreement his predecessor made, and added that a change of regime in Tehran would be a good idea, too. Why should North Korea expect better treatment? Those conflicting messages won't increase Kim Jong Un's interest in negotiating a deal.

Perhaps Trump's real target, though, was China. The president's strategy has been to press leader Xi Jinping to impose tough sanctions on North Korea, and to warn that war is inevitable if diplomacy fails. So far, it hasn't worked. Xi has politely promised cooperation, but in practice he's acting as if he doesn't think Trump will pull the trigger.

"China's strategic priorities are just different from those of the United States," Stewart M. Butler, a former State Department strategist, observed. "It's hard to know how much more leverage

See 'ROCKET MAN' on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Amid insanity, some lovely acts of kindness

Maybe I'm noticing kindness more because the world is such an insane and cruel place these days. Because not a day passes when something awful doesn't happen, like monster hurricanes and earthquakes that wipe out whole islands and communities. Among those killed in the Mexico City earthquake were 11 people who gathered in a church to celebrate the baptism of a baby girl. The baby died, too.

It seems like every day something horrendous takes my breath away. A college president hosting black students with cotton centerpieces. Naval nurses flipping off babies on social media and holding an infant, making it dance to rap music.

The president of the United States calling a murderous dictator with an itchy trigger finger "Rocket Man," and his supporters giggling as if when things go south, which at this rate should have been yesterday, his supporters will somehow be spared.

You get the idea.

Even with all that, all that, I've started to notice this civility, these small acts of kindness—especially on my commute. People holding doors for each other. Smiling, even. Helping each other out. Cutting each other a break.

Not everyone, of course. This is Philly. But enough to notice.

The other day, I watched a middle-aged black man rushing to catch the bus. Behind him, an elderly white couple was doing the same. The husband was in a wheelchair. It was clear that the couple wasn't going to make it. And then the other man turned around and told them not to worry: He'd get to the bus and make sure it didn't leave without them.

I stood there and watched him do exactly what he promised and thought: Maybe this isn't accidental. Maybe these acts of kindness aren't all random. Maybe this is what we do when the world comes undone. Our way to cope when so much feels out of our control.

When I posed the question to readers, some said I haven't been paying enough attention or giving people enough credit, that every day the world proves itself to be better than we think. We just need to stop focusing on all the noise.

But others shared their own stories. I especially liked this one from Bridget Kernan, of Philadelphia:

The other day Kernan fell while walking on Chestnut Street. "Totally wiped out," she explained. "Face first, dropping all of my bags."

Before she knew what had happened, a young black man grabbed her bags and her hand to help her up.

He made a comment about the trolley tracks tripping her, making her feel less awkward about falling. He told her she should take a minute to catch her breath.

"It wasn't just that he wanted to make sure I was OK before I got back on my way," she wrote to me. "He convinced me that I COULD dust myself off and get back on my way. Like, it's OK—you got this."

His kindness, she said, made her feel like she wasn't alone. He was gone before she knew it, but she hopes he reads this so she can thank him properly.

Maybe I'm suffering from a wicked case of wishful thinking as the world turns into a bigger dumpster fire. But right now, I want to focus on the kindness. I need to, and I don't think I'm alone.

I want to believe that maybe, just maybe, through these little acts of kindness we can find our way back to one another, to some sanity.

By HELEN UBINAS
Philadelphia Daily News

Helen Ubinas is a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News*. Readers may email her at ubinas@philly.com.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lucrecia Allado Ravelo Vergara (1912-2017)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lucrecia Allado Ravelo Vergara with the author.

Lucrecia joins her Jaime at Mililani Memorial Park today, exactly 97 years since she was born in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, married to an eight-year older husband from San Esteban, Ilocos Sur, who preceded her to Milalani 10 years ago, married for 55 years to the day she died. Lucrecia took care of her dates and numbers well.

I visited her two years ago while she was at the nursing home in Kuakini Nursing Care where she turned physically invalid due to a cracked hipbone. She was orphaned early, with two male siblings, an elder one who acquitted himself in Bataan during World War II but caught the dreaded TV virus and bug in the process. The other was a young sickly boy who came around before she was and had two years of care before his ability to survive went kaput. But she managed to help this teacher, her eldest boy who she made to understand that life is lived on earth, and not anywhere else. She would not name Hegel or Nietzsche, Einstein or Edison, but she had the wisdom of her age lived in her daily life. She did not look at the variations of the Egyptian Rah to her present-day Dios up in the sky but was devoted to what her Jesus Christ on earth represented. Her life lived the witness of that devotion to the end.

The mother of five, I was the eldest boy, the automatic patriarch of the family when my father left the Philippines for graduate school in the United States. My elder sister will be at her funeral, ironically playing the next matriarch in the family, a role that was denied her in the heavily patriarchal system of Pilipino life, like everywhere else in the world. Manang Fe Rosario left her sickly husband behind as well, will significantly play the role she deserved and we had as a family long ago affirmed.

Fe leads the remaining family of five, me here in Saipan, and the rest in Honolulu, with the middle boy Alex a retired chaplain of the Honolulu Police Force, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, our fourth brother with the Hawaii Parole Board, and the youngest sister, a retired nurse at Kapiolani Hospital. She raised five kids for almost six years while her husband pursued graduate studies at Asbury Seminary in Kentucky.

It is now a quaint family of five, the new elders as it were, and our focus is not to highlight this particular mother and her family but to say that there are just as many families out there who had managed to keep a picture of corporateness while maintaining the faces and roles of its individual members. We delight in our gifts and contradictions; so do others as well.

For Lucrecia, today is her glorious day, and solemnly we salute the matriarchy she firmly showed but quietly maintained. Salud.

Jaime Vergara Jr.
via email

Learn languages, win hearts!

I would like to thanks and congratulate Mr. Oliver Gonzales for making bilingual education in schools a priority. This gentleman is setting an example of how knowing—or at least understanding—other languages can benefit individuals and the community in whole. Including bilingual education at homes in the form of using two or more languages is a way of enriching parents and children and making tolerance effective.

Last week, students from Kagman High School visited us man'amko at the Aging Center. The meeting was warm and mutually enriching. The elderly loves being busy with the young, sharing life experiences and learning from the young ones about where are we heading in the near future. Mr. Pangelinan, the King of the Man'amko, expressed the congregants' stand, reminding the students of how important is loving our culture and nurturing it. He advised the students to learn to speak Chamorro or Carolinian or Tagalog as much as they can. And use this asset to a better life, a life full of international interactions to create a more respectful linguistic environment.

As an 84-year-old, I also found a few words of encouragement in addressing the students of Kagman High School. I shared with them some parts of my life story. I told them of my marriage to a woman born on Saipan. Overcoming the language barrier, we have a nice life together and we have two bilingual daughters. At home, we speak English but I would try to use Chamorro. I did my best but, still, I blame myself for not mastering an even better Chamorro. Also, I did not find time and put more effort into making my family speak Tagalog but at least they understand it.

Sure, learning other languages takes a long time and persistency but you get rewarded so much. You show respect, you get respect back and even more! A second language is a kind of universal key to open another heart. Miles and miles of distance between two gets erased in a few minutes!

So, my dear young ones and the not-too-young, make your own life and the others' lives a little brighter just by mastering as many languages as you can! As the Russians say, you cannot spoil the food by adding oil.

Teddy Guiao
Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

USE

From Page 10

ply the lessons. An understandable urge to return to normalcy is a prescription for the same result the next time around.

And let's respect science by fully funding the National Weather Service. The Category 4 hurricane that hit Galveston, Texas, in 1900 killed up to 12,000 people. All the recent hurricanes together claimed only a fraction of those lives. One big difference? Accurate forecasting that led to appropriate warnings heeded by those in harm's way.

The images we've seen have been compelling. Now let them compel all of us to act to make everyone safer.

(c)2017 *Newsday*

'ROCKET MAN'

From Page 10

we can get them to bring to bear."

"Rocket Man" isn't likely to impress Beijing, either. Insults are no longer their diplomatic style. They're more interested in predictability and stability.

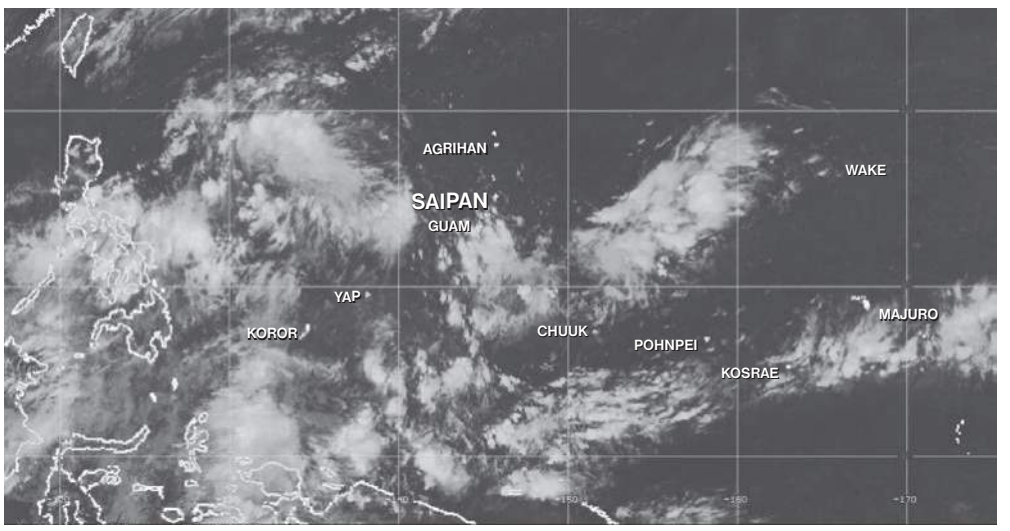
Trump may think he's backing North Korea and China into a corner, but he risks backing himself into one at the same time. If North Korea crosses the "red line" the president has drawn—putting a nuclear warhead on a long-range missile—his bluff will have been called. And then he will face two bad outcomes: Back down or go to war. If the result is war, a war the United States doesn't want to fight, Tuesday's "Rocket Man" speech will be remembered as one of the steps that took us there.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:05 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface ridge is west of the Marianas with weak troughing moving in by Tuesday, the trough amplifies a bit and gets some upper support. The trough remains over the region and another upper low moves over the area on Wednesday. During this time, there will likely be at least some times of scattered showers, but it is difficult to pinpoint. Then by later in the week, should be less moisture so should be a return to isolated showers and thunderstorms. For now, did not make any major changes to the forecast. Buoys remain in the 3 to 5 foot range and will likely drop about a foot over the next day or so. However, latest guidance indicates surf will decrease on Tuesday, but we could be on the cusp of low or moderate depending on how quickly the decrease occurs.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	93° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Rain	70° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	89° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 50°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
New York	Mostly Sunny	81° / 71°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 73°
Paris	Showers	70° / 52°
Busan	Rain	75° / 66°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 67°
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 59°
Seoul	Showers	79° / 59°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	79° / 72°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	82° / 72°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:37 AM	LOW TIDE	0.22
12:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.60
6:02 PM	LOW TIDE	1.04
10:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.59

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:54 am	10:36 pm	-
Wednesday	11:43 am	11:22 pm	-
Thursday	12:32 pm	-	-
Friday	-	12:09 am	1:20 pm
Saturday	-	12:58 am	2:07 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Trump promising huge tax cut; focus on taxes vs health care

AP
In this Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017, file photo, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin speaks at a press briefing at the Hilton Midtown hotel during the United Nations General Assembly, in New York.

MORRISTOWN, New Jersey (AP)—President Donald Trump is promising "the largest tax cut in the history of our country" that will slash rates for the middle class and corporations to spark economic growth and jobs.

Trump said Sunday his "primary focus" is the tax overhaul rather than last-ditch efforts to bring a repeal of the Obama health care program. The health care legislation brought forward by Republicans teetered near failure over the weekend, though said "eventually we will win on that."

Trump said the tax plan that the White House and congressional Republicans have been working on for months, for the first major overhaul of the tax system in three decades, is "totally finalized." He was speaking on the tarmac at the Morristown Municipal Airport.

Trump's details weren't firm. He said "I hope" the top corporate tax rate will be cut to 15 percent from the current 35 percent. House Speaker Paul Ryan has said a 15 percent rate is impractically low, with a rate somewhere in the low- to mid-20 percent range more viable to avoid blowing out the deficit.

The rate is "going to be substantially lower so we bring jobs back into our country," Trump said.

Trump also said "We think we're going to bring the individual rate to 10 percent or 12 percent, much lower than it is right now." He did not say whether the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans, now at 39.6 percent would be cut, as some Republicans have advocated.

"This is a plan for the middle class and for companies, so they can bring back jobs," he said.

The plan also is expected to reduce the number of tax brackets from seven to three.

Trump spoke as House Republicans on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee huddled behind closed doors to discuss the plan. They have promised to reveal an outline and possible details of the plan later this week, after all Republican lawmakers in the House get a chance to discuss it and put questions to the chief architects, including Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, who heads the Ways and Means panel.

"We'll let the White House determine the timetable" of releasing the plan, Brady said following the meeting. He added it will "definitely" occur this week.

Republicans have been split on some core issues. They are divided over whether to add to the nation's soaring $20 trillion debt with tax cuts. The GOP also is at odds over eliminating the federal deduction for state and local taxes.

Republican senators on opposing sides of the deficit debate have tentatively agreed on a plan for $1.5 trillion in tax cuts. That would add substantially to the debt and would enable deeper cuts to tax rates than would be allowed if Republicans followed through on earlier promises that their tax overhaul wouldn't add to the budget deficit. That would mark an about-face for top congressional Republicans like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Ryan, who had for months promised it wouldn't add to the deficit.

Earlier Sunday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a television interview the plan "creates a middle-income tax cut, it makes businesses competitive and it creates jobs." He added that there are changes, too, for the "high end," including "getting rid of lots of deductions." He did not offer specifics.

Republicans make desperate bid to save health care bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican opposition to the GOP health care bill swelled to near-fatal numbers Sunday as Sen. Susan Collins all but closed the door on supporting the last-ditch effort to scrap the Obama health care law and Sen. Ted Cruz said that "right now" he doesn't back it.

In a late bid to win votes and stave off defeat, Republicans were adding $14.5 billion to the measure for states, according to documents obtained late Sunday by The Associated Press.

White House legislative liaison Marc Short and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., one of the measure's sponsors, said Republicans would press ahead with a vote this week. But the comments by Collins and Cruz left the Republican drive to uproot President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act dangling by an increasingly fraying thread.

A vote must occur this week for Republicans to prevail with their narrow Senate majority. Next Sunday, protections expire against a Democratic filibuster, bill-killing delays that Republicans lack the votes to overcome.

President Donald Trump seemed to distance himself from the showdown, saying his "primary focus" was his party's drive to cut taxes.

"I don't know what they're doing," Trump told reporters about the bill's GOP opponents as he prepared to fly back to Washington after a weekend at his New Jersey golf club. "But you know what? Eventually we'll win, whether it's now or later."

Two GOP senators, Rand Paul of Kentucky and John McCain of Arizona, have already said they oppose the legislation. All Democrats will vote against it. "No" votes from three of the 52 GOP senators would kill the party's effort to deliver on its perennial vow to repeal "Obamacare" and would reprise the party's politically jarring failure to accomplish that this summer.

Collins cited the bill's cuts in the Medicaid program for low-income people and the likelihood that it would result in many losing health coverage and paying higher premiums. The Maine moderate also criticized a provision letting states make it easier for insurers to raise premiums on people with pre-existing medical conditions.

"It's very difficult for me to envision a scenario where I would end up voting for this bill," said Collins.

The conservative Cruz also voiced opposition, underscoring the bill's problems with both ends of the GOP spectrum.

"Right now, they don't have my vote," Cruz said at a festival in Austin, Texas. He suggested the measure doesn't do enough to reduce premiums by allowing insurers to sell less comprehensive coverage than Obama's law allows.

Cruz said he doesn't think fellow conservative Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, backs the GOP bill. Lee spokesman Conn Carroll said Lee wants "technical changes" but hasn't finalized his position.

A chart Republicans circulated Sunday said the legislation's grants would provide 14 percent more for Arizona than under Obama's law, 4 percent more for Kentucky 49 percent more for Texas and 3 percent more for Alaska, home to undecided GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski. Some extra money is specifically directed at sparsely populated states.

The numbers are misleading, partly because they omit GOP Medicaid cuts from clamping per-person spending caps on the program, said Matt House, spokesman for Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. In a statement, Schumer said the measure would "throw our health insurance system into chaos."

"We're moving forward and we'll see what happens next week," Graham said earlier Sunday.

Paul said even though the bill transforms federal health care dollars into block grants states would control, the GOP bill left too much of that spending intact.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Survey: Economists see no gain from NAFTA renegotiation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most business economists expect the Trump administration's efforts to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement will make no difference to the U.S. economy or cause harm. The National Association for Business Economics survey of 47 economists found that one-third think the renegotiation will have no impact, while one-fifth think it will harm the economy slightly. Seven percent see its impact as strongly or moderately negative. One-quarter said the renegotiation will be slightly positive while 9 percent said it would be moderately positive. The survey covered economists who work for large companies, trade associations, consulting firms and universities. The United States, Canada and Mexico are engaged in the third round of talks on the agreement, which began Saturday and will continue through Wednesday.

Vatican denounces ousted auditor who says he was forced out

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican on Sunday revealed the reason behind the hasty departure of its auditor general, accusing him of having illegally hired a firm to spy on the private lives of Vatican personnel. The Vatican made the revelation after Libero Milone broke three months of silence to declare that he resigned under threat of arrest for what he said were trumped-up charges. Milone told reporters Saturday that he was told on June 19 that Pope Francis had lost confidence in him. He said he was subsequently subject to an "aggressive" interrogation by Vatican police who seized material from his office and told him to resign or face arrest. "They wanted me to confess to something. I don't know what, because I acted within the confines of the statute," he told Sky TG24 and other media. In a statement, the Vatican admitted that Libero Milone resigned in June after Vatican investigators determined his office had "illegally hired an outside company to conduct investigations into the private lives of Holy See personnel." The Vatican said Milone had exceeded his mandate, freely tendered his resignation and was treated with full respect by investigators. It said it was "surprised and saddened" that Milone had violated the terms of his departure, which had called for confidentiality.

Nation

Gunman opens fire in Nashville church; 1 dead, 7 wounded

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A masked gunman opened fire at a Nashville church Sunday, walking silently down the aisle as he shot unsuspecting congregants. At least one person was killed and seven others wounded, authorities said.

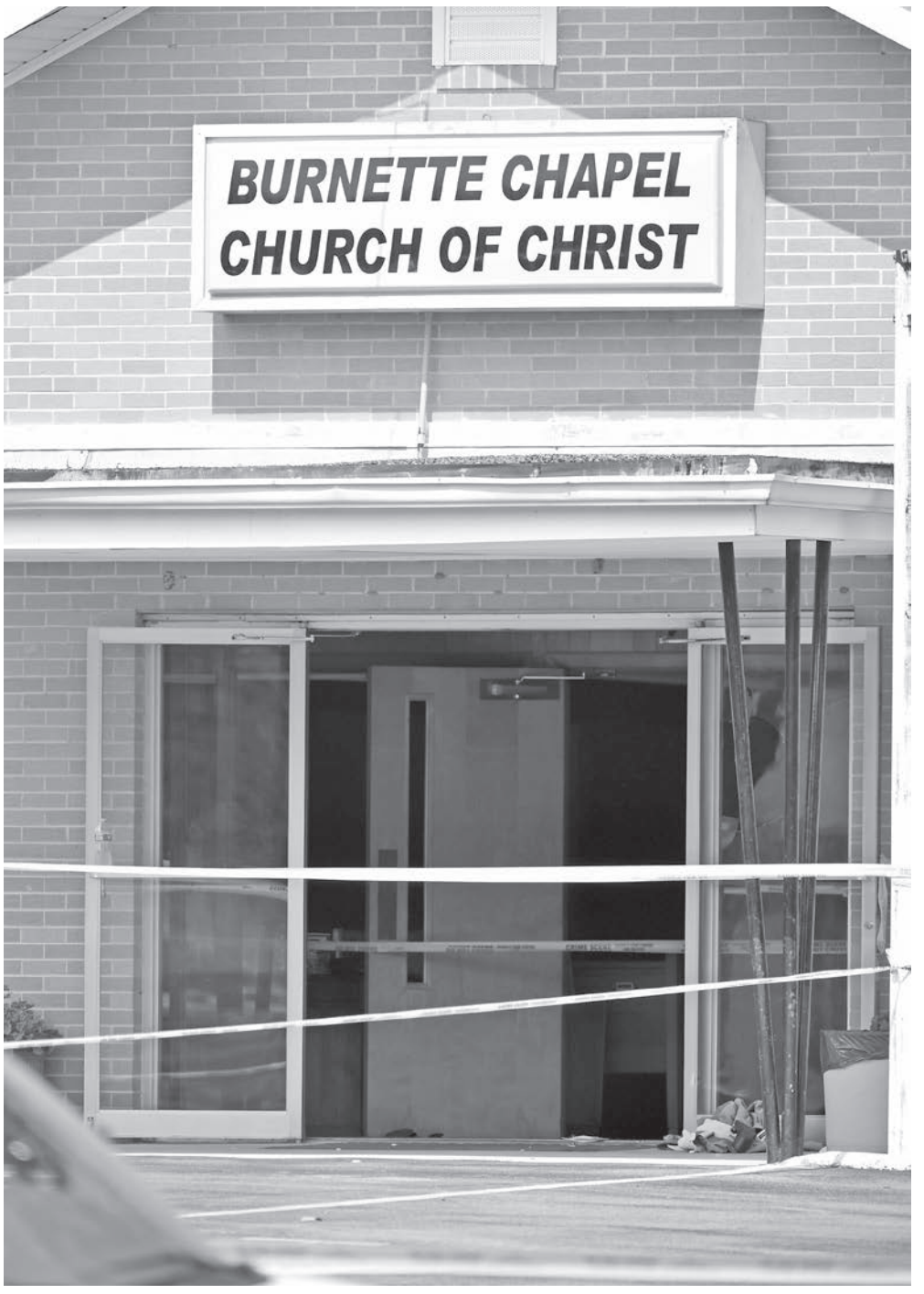
An usher confronted the shooter, who apparently shot himself in the struggle before he was arrested, police said.

The FBI said Sunday night it has opened a civil rights investigation into the shooting at the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ.

No motive was immediately determined. Church members told investigators that the suspect had attended services a year or two ago, said Don Aaron, a spokesman for the Metro Nashville Police Department. Nashville police did not immediately comment on several bizarre posts on the suspect's Facebook page in the hours before the shooting.

The gunman pulled into the church's parking lot as services were ending. He fatally shot a woman who was walking to her vehicle, then entered the rear of the church with two pistols and kept firing, hitting six people, Aaron said. Police said they later recovered another pistol and a rifle from the suspect's car.

Authorities identified the attacker as Emanuel Kidega Samson, 25, of Murfreesboro, who came to the United States from Sudan in 1996 and was a legal U.S. resident.



AP
Police tape lines the scene at the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ after a deadly shooting at the church on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017, in Antioch, Tenn.

It was unclear whether the self-inflicted wound to the chest was intentional, Aaron said.

The gunman was discharged hours later from Vanderbilt University Hospital but remained in police custody. The Metropolitan Nashville police tweeted Sunday night that Samson will be charged with one count of murder and that multiple "additional charges will be placed later." He was ordered held without bail by a judicial commissioner.

Witness Minerva Rosa said the usher was "a hero."

"He's amazing," said Rosa, a member of the church for eight years. "Without him, I think it could be worse."

The suspect said nothing as he fired. While the gunman made his way down the aisle, Rosa said, the pastor started shouting, "'Run! Run! Gunshots!'"

Aaron called the usher, 22-year-old Robert Engle, "an extraordinarily brave individual."

The woman who was killed in the parking lot was identified as Melanie Smith, 39, of Smyrna, Tennessee.

The gunman and six others were treated for gunshot wounds at nearby hospitals, along with Engle, who was pistol-whipped, Aaron said.

Among the wounded was Joey Spann, who is the church's pastor and is a Bible study teacher at Nashville Christian School.

After the attack, the nearby New Beautiful Gate Church opened its doors to Burnette Chapel churchgoers as they reunited with loved ones. New Beautiful Gate Pastor Michael Mosby said he is neighbors with Spann.

Trump replaces travel ban with new restrictions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Citizens of more than half a dozen countries will face new restrictions on entry to the U.S. under a proclamation signed by President Donald Trump on Sunday that will replace his expiring travel ban.

The new rules, which will impact the citizens of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen—and some from Venezuela—will go into effect on October 18.

The restrictions range from an indefinite ban on visas for citizens of countries like Syria to more targeted restrictions. A suspension of non-immigrant visas to citizens for Venezuela, for instance, will apply only to certain government officials and their immediate families.

The announcement comes the same day as Trump's temporary ban on visitors from six Muslim-majority countries was set to expire 90 days after it went into effect. That ban had barred citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen who lacked a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States" from entering the U.S. Only one of those countries, Sudan, will no longer be subject to travel restrictions.

"Making America Safe is my number one priority. We will not admit those into our country we cannot safely vet," Trump tweeted late Sunday after the new policy was announced.

Unlike the first iteration of Trump's travel ban, which sparked chaos at airports across the country and a flurry of legal challenges after being hastily written with little input outside the White House, officials stressed they had been working for months on the new rules, in collaboration with various agencies and in conversation with foreign governments.

To limit confusion, valid visas would not be revoked as a result of the proclamation. The order also permits, but does not guarantee, case-by-case waivers for citizens of the affected countries who meet certain criteria.

That includes: having previously worked or studied in the U.S.; having previously established "significant contacts" in the U.S.; and having "significant business or professional obligations" in the U.S. Still, officials acknowledged the waiver restrictions were narrower than the exemptions for people with bona fide ties to the United States that the Supreme Court mandated before the expiring order went into effect in late June.

The restrictions are targeted at countries that the Department of Homeland Security says fail to share sufficient information with the U.S. or haven't taken necessary security precautions.

DHS has spent recent months working to develop a new security baseline, which includes factors such as whether countries issue electronic passports with biometric information, report lost or stolen passports to INTERPOL, and share information about travelers' terror-related and criminal histories. The U.S. then shared those benchmarks with every country in the world and gave them 50 days to comply.

A total of sixteen countries did not comply with the rules at first, officials said, but half worked with the U.S. to improve their information-sharing and security practices. The remaining eight are now subject to the new restrictions until they make changes to bring them into compliance.

The new rules include the suspension of all immigrant visas for nationals of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Yemen and Somalia, and the suspension of non-immigrant visas, such as for business and tourism, to nationals of Chad, Libya, North Korea, Syria and Yemen.

Official: Hurricane Maria set Puerto Rico back decades

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's non-voting representative in the U.S. Congress said Sunday that Hurricane Maria's destruction has set the island back decades, even as authorities worked to assess the extent of the damage.

"The devastation in Puerto Rico has set us back nearly 20 to 30 years," said Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez. "I can't deny that the Puerto Rico of now is different from that of a week ago. The destruction of properties, of flattened structures, of families without homes, of debris everywhere. The island's greenery is gone."

Engineers on Sunday planned to inspect the roughly 90-year-old Guajataca Dam, which holds back a reservoir covering about 2 square miles (5 square kilometers) in northwest Puerto Rico. The government said it suffered a large crack after Maria dumped 15 inches (nearly 40 centimeters) of rain on the surrounding mountains and that it "will collapse at any minute." Nearby residents had been evacuated, but began returning to their homes Saturday after a spillway eased pressure on the dam.

Puerto Rico's National Guard diverted an oil tanker that broke free and threatened to crash into the southeast coast, said Gov. Ricardo Rossello, and officials still had not had communication with nine of 78 municipalities.

"This is a major disaster," he said. "We've had extensive damage. This is going to take some time."

The death toll from Maria in Puerto Rico was at least 10, including two police officers who drowned in floodwaters in the western town of Aguada. That number was expected to climb as officials from remote towns continued to check in with officials in San Juan. Authorities in the town of Vega Alta on the north coast said they had been unable to reach an entire neighborhood called Fatima, and were particularly worried about residents of a nursing home.

Across the Caribbean, Maria had claimed at least 31 lives, including at least 15 on hard-hit Dominica.

Mike Hyland, a spokesman for the American Public Power Association, which represents the Puerto Rican power agency, said Sunday that restoration is a long ways off. The organization is working with U.S. Energy Department crews as well as New York Power Authority workers sent down by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to fly over the island and assess damage.

Asia

Bangladesh coastal town a place of Rohingya hope and tragedy

SHAH PORIR DWIP, Bangladesh (AP)—From a distance you can see elegantly carved wooden boats bob gently in the waters that surround this coastal town at Bangladesh's southern tip. Across a sliver of the shimmering waters of the Bay of Bengal is Myanmar.

These boats and this place can mean both hope and tragedy for the Rohingya Muslims who are desperate to escape the violence that has engulfed their lives in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

High tide or low, day or night, rough waters or calm, when they can find a boat, the Rohingya take their chance to flee to Bangladesh. More than 430,000 have left Myanmar in less than a month.

Not everyone makes it.

Mounds of earth in the cemeteries of this little town are the only reminders of Rohingya who drowned as their boats capsized, often just a few heartbreaking meters away from the safety of the shore.

"Ten children are buried in that grave," said Nur Islam, the imam of the town's main mosque, pointing to a large mound covered in thorny branches to keep dogs and other animals from disrespecting the graves.

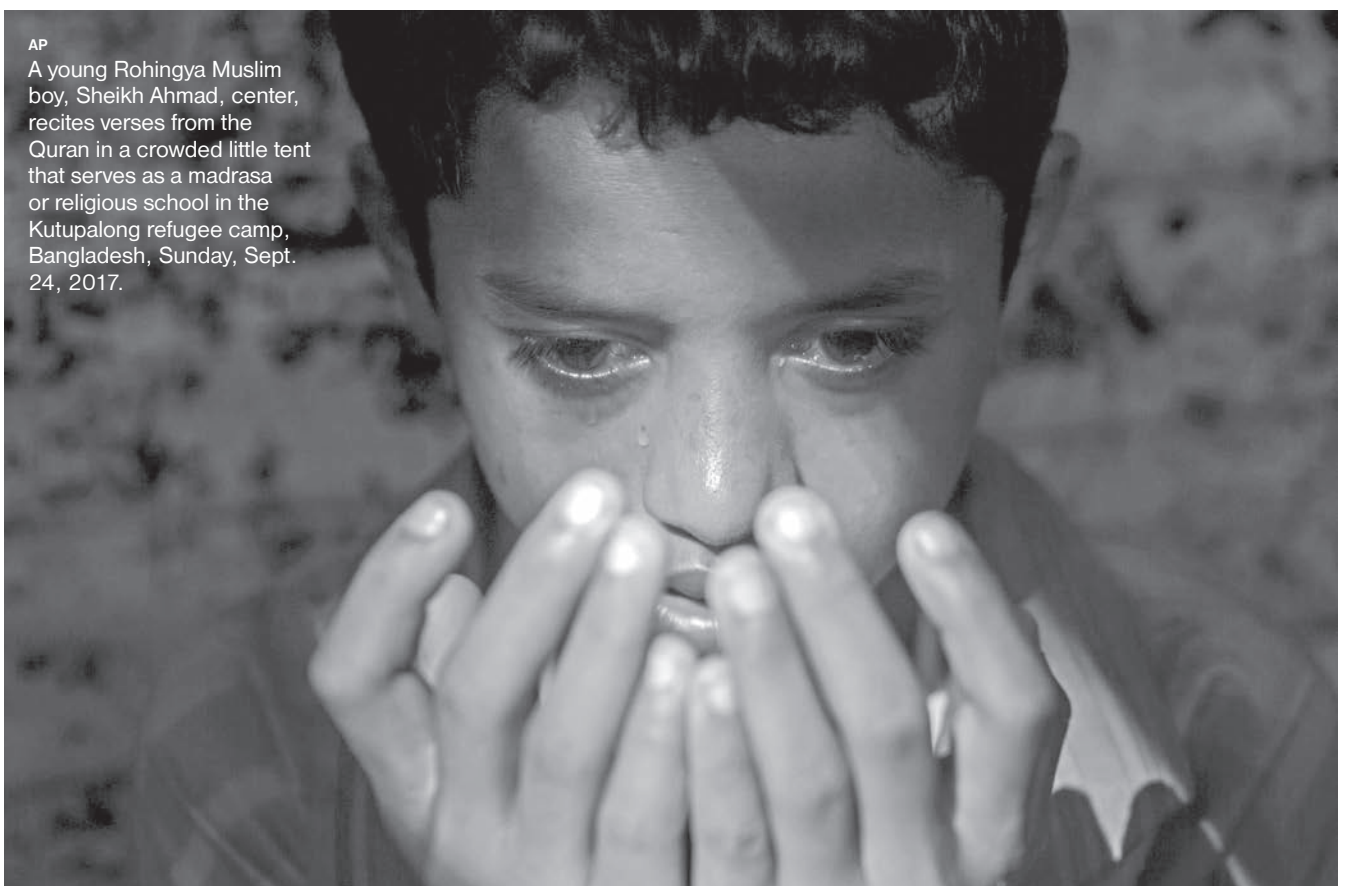
"Here there are nine women buried," he added, pointing to another large mound.

A solitary pile of earth, away from the other graves, holds an infant whose body washed ashore days after the boat carrying him capsized.

"They get off the boat. The water looks shallow. They don't know how deep it is and they drown," Islam said. "It's very painful ... such small children."

The persecution that the Rohingya Muslims face in Myanmar is not new and neither is their presence here. They've been coming in smaller waves since the 1980s when Myanmar stripped them of their citizenship rights.

But never has the influx been as massive as the one that started Aug. 25 when a Rohingya insurgent group staged deadly attacks on dozens of police posts in Myanmar. The reprisal has been swift and brutal. Myanmar officials describe is as a clearance operation aimed at militants. The U.N. calls it ethnic cleansing.



AP
A young Rohingya Muslim boy, Sheikh Ahmad, center, recites verses from the Quran in a crowded little tent that serves as a madrasa or religious school in the Kutupalong refugee camp, Bangladesh, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017.

Bangladesh, an impoverished nation too small for even its own population, is struggling with the sheer number of refugees and is trying to put all of them in one place. In Shah Porir Dwip, loudspeakers announce that no one should shelter refugees in their homes. There is no room for them in this crowded and dirt-poor town.

They need to go to refugee camps further up the coast in Cox's Bazar, but first they must find the money to pay for the nearly 60-kilometer (37-mile) journey.

The Rohingya who can afford it try to bring a cow or a few goats with them. There's a thriving market in buying livestock at throw away prices from these desperate people. A cow bought from a newcomer can be sold for twice as much in the markets of nearby Teknaf.

On a recent day, only one tiny boat was able to make its way to Shah Porir Dwip.

It dropped off three emaciated and exhausted men some ways from the shore. They walked over kilometers (miles) of sand at low tide, under the scorching sun. Their bodies were bent under the weight of their belongings and their lips were cracked and parched from thirst.

They said many others were waiting to cross but were being stopped by soldiers.

"Myanmar army is shooting at them. They are not letting them go," Mohammad Amir said as sweat poured down his face.

Abdul Haq watches such desperation play out daily. Since fleeing Myanmar in 2012 he's lived in a row of shanties near a jetty in Shah Porir Dwip that's home to Rohingya who came here during earlier waves of violence. They do menial jobs here — day labor or pulling cycle rickshaws.

On a clear day he can look across the water and see the coast of Myanmar. But he also sees the smoke from burning villages. He knows the dangers that lurk there.

"My soul cries for my home," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

New Zealanders to wait weeks for next leader after election

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealanders will likely need to wait two or three weeks to find out who will next lead their country after a general election on Saturday ended with an inconclusive result. Prime Minister Bill English's National Party won the most votes but not enough to form a government without help from other political parties. While English appears to be in the best position, his liberal rival Jacinda Ardern hasn't given up hope she can prevail. Party leaders expect to start coalition negotiations soon but wait until after a final vote count on Oct. 7 before making a decision. About 15 percent of votes have yet to be counted, including those cast by people who were outside of their district or overseas. Until then, English will remain as caretaker prime minister.

Australians' support of gay marriage weakens in new poll

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Support for legalizing gay marriage in Australia has weakened just as a national postal ballot asks voters where they stand on the contentious issue, according to a new opinion poll. The government said Monday it has sent ballots to all of Australia's more than 16 million voters asking whether the nation should lift its prohibition on same-sex marriage. Results of the balloting that began Sept. 12 will be announced Nov. 15. A poll by Sydney-based market researcher Galaxy Research published in The Australian newspaper found support for gay marriage had slipped in five weeks from 63 to 57 percent. Opposition had grown from 30 to 34 percent. The survey of 1,695 voters was taken from Thursday to Sunday. It had a 2.4 percentage point margin of error. If most of the balloting responses favor same-sex marriage, Parliament will vote within a month on legislation to lift the ban. But some lawmakers have vowed to vote down marriage equality regardless of popular opinion. If most of the mailed-in responses oppose same-sex marriage, gay rights advocates fear that marriage equality could be off the political agenda for years. A close result will amplify questions about how accurately the postal ballot reflects popular opinion. Ireland and Australia are the only countries to put the question of gay marriage to the general population.

PH assures Vietnam of fair probe on dead fishermen

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government said Monday a Vietnamese fishing vessel initiated "very dangerous maneuvers" and slammed into a Filipino navy boat during a chase, prompting its sailors to fire warning shots then later found two Vietnamese dead on the vessel.

Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano informed his Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Binh Minh, of the deadly encounter that occurred early Saturday off the northwestern Philippines and assured him of a fair investigation.

Cayetano talked to Minh, who also serves as Vietnam' deputy prime minister, during a meeting at the United Nations in New York.

"We would like to offer our sympathies over the unfortunate loss of life and give you our assurance that we will conduct a fair and thorough investigation into this matter," a Department of Foreign Affairs statement issued in Manila quoted Cayetano as telling Minh.

Cayetano assured Minh that the five other Vietnamese fishermen who were taken into custody by Philippine authorities will be treated well and could be accessed anytime by Vietnamese officials, who are being updated on developments.

A Philippine security official told The Associated Press on Sunday that the incident unfolded closer to the Philippine coast and was not related to the main territorial disputes farther out in the South China Sea. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila was the one authorized to speak on the issue.

Still, the deadly incident underscores the danger that lurks due to overlapping territorial claims in a region where competition is heavy for fish, oil, gas and other maritime resources. In 2013, Philippine coast guard personnel opened fire and killed a Taiwanese fisherman on board a boat that sailed in waters between the northern Philippines and Taiwan, sparking protests in Taiwan. Taiwan imposed sanctions before the row was diplomatically resolved.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said a Philippine navy patrol vessel encountered six Vietnamese boats fishing within the country's exclusive economic zone about 34 nautical miles (63 kilometers) off Cape Bolina in the Philippine province of Pangasinan.

Such zones extend 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) where a coastal state has internationally recognized exclusive rights to fish and exploit other sea resources although foreign ships could pass through.

The Filipino sailors chased the Vietnamese fishing vessels, one of which "initiated very dangerous maneuvers that resulted in it slamming into the left front and left center of the Philippine patrol vessel," the department said.

That "prompted personnel on board the navy vessel to fire warning shots and when the navy personnel boarded the fishing vessel, they found two dead Vietnamese fishermen," the department said, adding five other Vietnamese fishermen surrendered and were taken into custody.

The security official told AP the Vietnamese vessels were using powerful lights to attract fish off Bolinao town. The use of lights for that purpose is prohibited under Philippine law.

The Filipino navy personnel "followed the rules of engagement, including identification protocol and use of radio and public address system," the official said, adding that the Vietnamese fishing boat was towed to Pangasinan afterward.

Vietnamese Embassy officials were not immediately available for comment.

Vietnam and the Philippines have both voiced opposition to China's assertions of its territorial claims in the South China Sea, but Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has toned down his country's criticism in an effort to thaw once-frosty relations and revive trade with Beijing.

World

MERKEL WINS 4TH TERM
as nationalists enter German parliament

German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrives for a statement on the parliament election at the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Union CDU in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017. AP

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel won a fourth term Sunday, but now faces the tricky prospect of forming a coalition with two disparate new partners after voters weakened her conservatives and a nationalist, anti-migrant party surged into parliament.

Merkel's center-left challenger, Martin Schulz, conceded his Social Democrats had suffered a "crushing election defeat," with projections showing the party's worst performance in post-World War II Germany.

He vowed to take his party, the junior partner in Merkel's outgoing "grand coalition" of Germany's traditionally dominant parties, into opposition.

"We have a mandate to form a new government, and no government can be formed against us," Merkel told cheering supporters. She added that it wasn't a "matter of course" to finish first after 12 years in power, and that the past four years were "extremely challenging."

Stressing that "we live in stormy times" internationally, she declared: "I have the intention of achieving a stable government in Germany."

The biggest winner was the 4-year-old Alternative for Germany, or AfD. It finished third after a campaign that centered on shrill criticism of Merkel and her decision in 2015 to allow large numbers of migrants into Germany, but also harnessed wider discontent with established politicians.

One of AfD's leaders, Alice Weidel, said it will provide "constructive opposition." But co-leader Alexander Gauland struck a harsher tone, vowing that "we will take our country back" and promising to "chase" Merkel.

Final results released shortly before 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) on Monday showed Merkel's Christian Democratic Union and their Bavaria-only allies, the Christian Social Union, winning 33 percent of the vote — down from 41.5 percent four years ago. It was one of their weakest post-war showings.

Schulz's Social Democrats were trailing far behind, with 20.5 percent support, down from 25.7 percent in 2013 and undercutting their previous post-war low of 23 percent eight years ago.

AfD won 12.6 percent of the vote. It was followed by the election's other big winner — the pro-business Free Democratic Party, which returned to parliament after a four-year break with 10.7 percent.

The Free Democrats were Merkel's coalition partners in her second-term government from 2009-2013, but lost all their seats four years ago.

"In a country that is big on schadenfreude, our comeback is an encouraging message — after failure, a new beginning is possible," party leader Christian Lindner told supporters.

The Left Party took 9.2 percent of the vote, coming slightly ahead of the traditionally left-leaning Greens who won 8.9 percent, completing a parliament that now has six caucuses rather than the previous four.

Searchers dig as Mexico City reopens just 1 pct. of schools

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Search teams are still digging in dangerous piles of rubble hoping against the odds to find survivors at collapsed buildings, while officials say they have so far cleared only 103 of Mexico City's nearly 9,000 schools to reopen Monday.

The need to inspect 98 percent of the capital's public and private schools nearly a week after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake killed at least 182 people in the city and 138 in nearby states was a stark indicator of just how long the path back to normalcy will be.

Federal Education Secretary Aurelio Nuno said Sunday that it could take a couple more weeks to inspect all of the schools. As school inspections progress, the government will announce each day which schools have been cleared to resume classes. For schools found to have structural damage, students could be put in temporary classrooms.

"For the safety of the boys, the girls, the teachers and for the peace of mind, of course, of all the fathers and all the mothers, all schools will be inspected," Nuno said.

Rescue operations remained active in at least three sites in Mexico City — two apartment buildings and an office building — but hope dimmed every time rescuers had to retreat due to instability of debris. But no one has been found alive since Wednesday, when a woman was pulled from debris.

As darkness fell Sunday, prayers were held by families who have been gathered near the collapsed office hoping missing relatives will be found. A crowd of onlookers watching swelled, and so did the number of volunteer workers. Teachers at one corner tried to entertain children of some of the waiting families. There also appeared to be more people offering psychological support.

Hugo Luna, whose cousin Erika Gabriela Albarran was believed trapped in the fallen building, complained that officials had not immediately informed families when two bodies were removed Saturday night. "There is a lot of distrust of authorities," he said.

His aunt, who was also inside the building when the quake hit but escaped, is traumatized, he said.

"Nothing happened to her, but now she has panic attacks," Luna said. "You open the door, she hears a noise and she gets scared."

For the family of Adrian Moreno, a missing 26-year-old human resources worker at an accounting firm, the emotional roller coaster is getting to be too much. Moreno's mother had a look of anguish and largely stopped being able to speak. His boyfriend, Dario Hernandez, also looked lost, his gaze tear-stained and unfocused.

Pope's sex abuse advisers also look into children of priests

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis' committee of advisers on protecting children from sexually abusive priests is expanding its workload to include the needs and rights of children fathered by Roman Catholic priests.

Committee members told The Associated Press on Sunday that a working group is looking into developing guidelines that can be used by dioceses around the world to ensure that children born to priests are adequately cared for.

"It's a horrendous problem in many cultures, and it's not something that is readily talked about," commission member Dr. Krysten Winter-Green said.

Indeed, the church has tried to keep such children secret for centuries, because of the scandal of priests breaking their vows of celibacy. But it has gained visibility after Irish bishops published guidelines earlier this year that focused on ensuring the wellbeing of the child and the mother, who often suffer psychological problems from the stigma and silence imposed on them by the church.

The Irish guidelines were believed to represent the first comprehensive public policy by a national bishops' conference on the issue. They have already become a model of sorts: The Union of Superiors General — an umbrella group of male religious orders — has sent the Irish guidelines to their members to apply, and the International Union of Superiors General, the female umbrella group, is expected to endorse them at a November assembly, said Vincent Doyle, a lead campaigner on the issue.

Commission member Bill Kilgallon briefed Francis on the decision of the working group to take up the issue of priests' children during an audience last week.

Kilgallon told the AP that the issue falls squarely under the broad mandate of the commission, which is officially known as the "Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors" and has as its mission the aim of promoting and protecting the dignity of minors and vulnerable adults.

"If someone fathers a child, they have a responsibility to that child, end of story," Kilgallon said.

The issue has been placed on the church's agenda in large part due to a campaign by Doyle, an Irish psychotherapist who discovered late in life that his father was a priest. With the backing of the archbishop of Dublin, Doyle launched Coping International, an online self-help resource to help eliminate the stigma he and others like him have faced, and educate them and the church about the emotional and psychological problems that some children suffer. They can include depression, anxiety and other mental health issues, as well as social isolation and financial hardship.

Focus

Church stoked tithing with unemployment scam, ex-members say

By MITCH WEISS and HOLBROOK MOHR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPINDALE, North Carolina (AP)—When Randy Fields' construction company faced potential ruin because of the cratering economy, he pleaded with his pastor at Word of Faith Fellowship church to reduce the amount of money he was required to tithe every week.

To his shock, Fields said church founder Jane Whaley proposed a divine plan that would allow him to continue tithing at least 10 percent of his income to the secretive evangelical church while helping his company survive: He would file fraudulent unemployment claims on behalf of his employees. She called it, he said, "God's plan."

Fields and 10 other former congregants told The Associated Press that they and dozens of employees who were church members filed bogus claims at Word of Faith Fellowship leaders' direction, and said they had been interviewed at length about the false claims by investigators with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The unemployment allegations were uncovered as part of the AP's ongoing investigation into Word of Faith, which has about 750 congregants in rural North Carolina and a total of nearly 2,000 members in its branches in Brazil and Ghana and its affiliations in Sweden, Scotland and other countries.

Some of the ex-members said they turned critical documents related to the unemployment claims over to authorities, even though they knew they could be charged with defrauding the government.

The former members estimated the fraudulent claims —some filed by the business owners' wives and other family members—would have drawn payments totaling in the hundreds of thousands of dollars over a six-year period.

The Department of Homeland Security referred questions to the U.S. attorney's office in Charlotte, which cited an "ongoing investigation into allegations against Word of Faith Fellowship" and would not elaborate. The State Bureau of Investigation said the agency would not comment "due to the overall investigation" involving the church.

Whaley and church attorney Josh Farmer did not respond to numerous requests for comment.

In February, the AP cited more than three dozen former Word of Faith Fellowship members who said congregants were regularly punched and choked in an effort to beat out devils. The AP also revealed how, over the course of two decades, followers were ordered by church leaders to lie to authorities investigating reports of abuse.

Last month, the AP outlined how Word of Faith created a pipeline of young laborers from its two Brazilian congregations who say they were brought to the U.S. and forced to work at businesses owned by church leaders for little or no pay.

The AP's stories have triggered investigations in both the United States and Brazil.

Over the years, church leaders have owned and operated more than two dozen businesses. The interviews with former followers, along with documents reviewed by the AP, indicate at least six companies owned by leaders were involved with filing fraudulent unemployment claims between 2008 and 2013. Most of those businesses' employees are congregants, the AP found.

The AP reviewed individual checking account records that showed unemployment benefits deposited by the state, along with income tax records summarizing how much money some of the former followers interviewed received annually in such payments.

Fields, who spent 24 years in the church before leaving in 2015, said his employees kept working without pay while collecting unemployment benefits. "Basically, their unemployment checks would become their paychecks," he said.

It is illegal for employers or employees to knowingly file fraudulent unemployment claims. Since Dec. 1, 2012, violators in North Carolina can face felony fraud charges if the illegal benefits totaled more than $400. Before Dec. 1, 2012, filing false claims was only a misdemeanor.

If investigators believe employers or employees were involved in a conspiracy, however, they could be charged with serious state and federal felony charges.

Fields said he knew the plan was illegal but went along with it because of intense pressure from Whaley, who founded the church with her husband in 1979.

"I'm not proud of what I did, but I have to make this right," he said.

The price of the refusal, Fields said, could be beatings administered by fellow church members and public shaming by Whaley. The church also might mandate that he be cut off from any contact with his family, he said.

AP
Former Word of Faith Fellowship church member Rachael Bryant poses for a photo with her tax records at her home in Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017. She and 10 other members of the evangelical North Carolina-based church say their leader, Jane Whaley, coerced congregants into filing false unemployment claims after the faltering economy threatened weekly tithes from church-affiliated companies.

"You knew it was wrong, but you knew you couldn't say a word," said Rick Cooper, who acknowledged falsely filing for unemployment from April 2011 to April 2012.

In North Carolina, companies pay a quarterly unemployment tax based on the number of their workers, with the money going into a fund used to pay out claims, according to Larry Parker, spokesman for the Division of Employment Security, which oversees the program.

When a worker files for unemployment, the agency checks with the employer to learn the reason. If an employer says a worker was let go because of the poor economy, payments usually are approved quickly, Parker said.

During the recession, which started in 2007 and was driven by the housing meltdown, laid-off workers could receive state and federal extensions increasing unemployment to 99 weeks with a maximum weekly check of $535. But in 2013, North Carolina legislators tied benefits to the state's unemployment rate. Currently, laid-off workers can receive up to 26 weeks of unemployment, with a maximum payment of $350 a week, Parker said.

And, he emphasized, a worker must have been laid off to collect unemployment.

"If a company is trying to make workers work while they collect unemployment, that's a potential fraud situation," Parker said.

The former congregants said that not only were they coerced into continuing to work while collecting unemployment, the money fell short of what they needed to pay their bills.

"The unemployment checks never equaled what you were making," said Cooper, who worked for Diverse Corporate Tech Inc., a manufacturing company owned by church leader Kent Covington.

"I was making about $700 a week, but I only collected $235 a week in unemployment," Cooper said. "So I'm working the same hours—many times, much longer hours—for less. It was devastating for my family."

Church members were expected to keep tithing regardless of their financial situations and Whaley kept close tabs on "who was giving what," Cooper said.

Some of those interviewed by the AP said they learned about the practice at meetings with company officials, but that Whaley herself also promoted it.

"Jane was heavily involved. She was always asking questions about it," said Rachael Bryant, who calculated that she had received unemployment benefits of about $200 a week for 18 months while still working for a Word of Faith minister.

"I remember after I was on unemployment for a few months and Jane said, 'You're still on unemployment, right?' And I said 'yes.' And she said, 'Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus!'" Bryant said.

Workers receiving unemployment benefits must check in every week and demonstrate they are actively seeking work by providing the names of businesses where they filed job applications, and the former Word of Faith members told the AP that church leaders had a plan for that.

"Every week we'd go to the unemployment office and put down that we looked for work at other companies operated by Word of Faith Fellowship leaders," Rick Cooper said. "Those companies would vouch for the Word of Faith members at the unemployment offices. It was a conspiracy. What's amazing to me is that this went on for years and no red flags ever went off."

Cooper said Whaley told him Covington's business needed the money because "the devil had been attacking the company's finances" and the minister might lose his house.

Rick Cooper's son Jeffrey, an attorney and accountant who also has broken with the church, worked for Covington's company, too. Jeffrey Cooper said he was so uneasy about the practice that he called the Division of Employment Security to ask what he labeled a "hypothetical question."

"I said, 'Can an employee file for unemployment while they were still working for a company?'" he told the AP. He said the state official replied that he hoped it was only a hypothetical question because the practice was illegal and anyone involved with it could face serious charges.

Cooper said he relayed the information to Covington, who exploded. "He started screaming at me at the top of his lungs that I was wicked," Cooper said.

As a result, Cooper said he was publicly rebuked by Whaley and completely segregated from his wife for six months. Other church members interviewed by the AP corroborated his story.

Rick and Jeffrey Cooper that they and nearly three dozen employees at Diverse Corporate Tech and Covington's other company, Integrity Marble and Granite, filed false unemployment claims over the course of several years.

Covington did not return several phone messages from the AP.

Benjamin Cooper, Jeffrey's brother, told the AP that Whaley touted the success of the unemployment tactic from the pulpit in 2009.

"There was a church service and Jane got up and started saying that Kent had heard from God of a means to save God's companies' money," Benjamin Cooper said. "She needed to have a meeting after church with all the business owners. I knew what she was referring to. That's why I remember it. We were already on unemployment at that point."

Rachael Bryant said she was pressured into filing false unemployment claims in 2008 after her boss, a medical professional who was a leader in the church, was audited by Medicare and told he owed money because of coding errors.

Bryant said one of her boss' sons told her the company wouldn't be able to pay her for a while, but that Whaley refused to let her look for another job. Eventually, she said, Whaley said they had a plan to help both the doctor and his employees.

"She said, 'Rachael, God found a way where you can make some money. Kent's done it with some of his businesses. So we're going to put you on unemployment,'" Bryant said.

Some of her boss' family members also filed for unemployment while continuing to work at the business, she said.

"I remember that I went to Jane after being on it for like three or four months and I remember asking her if I could apply for a job opening in another doctor's office. Well, she started screaming at me, 'You're wicked! There's nothing but the money devil in you!'" said Bryant, who had been making about $500 a week before being reduced to only unemployment checks.

Bryant said she was too scared to leave.

Looking back, Fields—whose oldest daughter and grandchild remain in the church—said he struggles with his decision to knuckle under pressure and participate in the plan. And he regrets it.

"The businesses helped support the church," he said. "We would make large donations. Without the businesses, they would have been in trouble."

He paused for a moment to collect his thoughts.

"At the time, it just seemed like the right thing to do. But I was wrong," he said. "We were all wrong."

Overdrive

2017 Honda Civic Si continues the Civic's winning tradition, using an upgraded version of the 1.5-liter turbo four-cylinder engine in the base Civic mated to a 6-speed manual transmission making 205 horsepower. The sporting Civic Si is a value at just under $24,000. Pictured in Rhinelander, Wisc., on August 19, 2017. TNS

AUTO REVIEW

Best affordable sports car? 2017 Honda Civic Si

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The sign indicated curves ahead. The road was so newly paved it didn't have a dividing line. The asphalt undulated left and right, with an occasional dip before the far-off turn. There were no houses or driveways, just woods on one side, a meadow on the other. It was the perfect road for the Honda Civic Si.

At another time in another place, the vestiges of rain dried on the iconic Wisconsin race course Road America. Six-figure cars topping 500 horsepower rumbled into the queue. The storied Kink was used to interrupt a straightaway, emphasizing handling and braking more than top speed. There was the rounding ascending Carousel. There was the subtle top-speed luring curves of Kettle Bottoms. It was the perfect road for the Honda Civic Si.

On the highway, at yet another time in yet another place, or in the city, at still a different time and place, the Civic Si was the perfect car for the road.

Compared with other sports cars it's not that fast, topping out at 137 mph, and it's not that quick, hitting 60 mph in 6.3 seconds (according to Car and Driver). It handles well, the steering is direct, the throttle is responsive, and the short-rowing six-speed manual transmission feels like an extension of thought. Also available as a coupe, the sedan has four doors, five seats, and enough room inside to comfortably take the family on a road-trip vacation. But at just under $24,000, the 2017 Honda Civic Si might be the best value on the market.

The eighth iteration of the sporting variant of the Civic compact carries on its winning tradition. The 10th-generation Civic was redesigned for model year 2016, winning North American Car of the Year award and so far in 2017 edging out the Toyota Camry for the first time in 15 years as the best-selling car in America.

The Si gets an upgraded version of the turbo four-cylinder engine in the base Civic, also marking the first time Si gets turbocharged. The high-boost tuning produces 205 horsepower (174 horsepower in the base Civic) and 192 pound-feet of torque (162 pound-feet in the base Civic). It also returned over 40 mpg on the highway in our week of testing. The six-speed manual is a thing of beauty, with seamless rowing and no notching, and responsive uptake on the clutch without being too stubborn or too springy.

It is the ideal starter sports car, more than the rougher Subaru WRX and the heavier Volkswagen GTI. The sedan loses nearly 100 pounds to a svelte 2,906 pounds and the suspension is stiffer overall, giving the sedan excellent and surprising grab with little to no roll. It's Miata-esque in how well it handles, shifts and steers by being responsive without being quick. The front-wheel drive setup induces plenty of torque steer, however, so when you floor it or hammer it in second the wheels jump right a bit. Turbo lag is minor, and once the lightweight engine eclipses the 2,000 rpm mark, there is some lovely grrr underscored by turbo whir going through the cabin and out the center-mounted chrome exhaust pipe.

Other differences to the Si style are a wider, taller fascia same as the Civic hatchback, 18-inch wheels from the Sport Touring trim of the hatch, and a rear spoiler that is different than the hatch.

Herein is where Honda may encounter a problem. If the sedan is mainly the comfort car, and the hatch is, at least aesthetically, a bit more sporting, and the Type R hot hatch coming later this year for the first time in America is the pedestal performance car, then where does the Si fit anymore?

It comes down to price. Value. The Sport Touring trim of the hatch we tested was $28,300; the Type R will be $33,900 until dealers start to gouge; even the well-heeled Touring trim of the base model is more than the Si. The Si, then, is an excellent starter sports car that balances practicality, roominess, safety, and driving thrills better than the competition and other Civics.

Part of the Civic's popularity is how well Honda has opened up the inside and made clever use of all available space. The body is 4 inches longer, and the rear seats seem midsize sedan far away. On a long weekend getaway with the kids, there was little bickering about the rear passenger kicking the back of the front. Serenity now.

Honda's digital instrument cluster is sharp, with large and bright displays that turn to red in sport mode. It's simple, which is a nice change from other cars. There is a new vehicle info display inside the speedometer that is not simple, at least in execution. A week with the car and I blame the steering wheel controls more than the display. Hitting the info button will project a line of large icons under the speedometer. Hit enter in the center of the four-way arrow control to access the info in that icon, such as trip meter. But then if you hit the right or left arrow it will change the radio station, instead of taking you deeper into the trip meter. It's good use of the real estate, but there could be more simplification. And a volume knob.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Honda Civic Si at a glance

Vehicle type: Sports sedan
Base price: $23,900
As tested: $23,900 (excluding $875 delivery)
MPG: 28 city, 38 highway
Engine: 1.5-liter turbo four-cylinder
Transmission: Six-speed manual to front wheels
Parting shot: Versatile starter sports car.

Motormouth: Top Tier gas worth the top tier price

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q Less than a year ago, I purchased a 2016 Infinity Q70 with a direct fuel injection engine. I have ever since gone out of my way to use gasoline that is Top Tier rated, with the belief that such fuel will help prevent my fuel system from needing the routine servicing often promoted by auto dealer servicing departments. I was also influenced by a joint study by AAA and Consumer Reports that found Top Tier gasoline is worth the extra cost. What is your judgment on this issue?

— A. M., Huntley, Ill.

A Your hunch is right on. We have advocated Top Tier fuels since the creation of the standards over a decade ago. To see a full list of Top Tier gasoline marketers go to www.toptiergas.com/licensedbrands.

Q I have a 2011 Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck. It has no security system or any other aftermarket electronics. Periodically when starting, I turn the key and although all the system lights illuminate, the engine will not turn over. The starter does not click and there is no other sound. Repeated efforts do nothing and only after it sits for about 10 minutes will it crank. This never happens on the initial start, only after the vehicle has been driven and the engine is hot. The battery is new. The dealer was unable to troubleshoot the problem because there was no computer code and they advised there is no applicable service bulletin.

— T.H., Minneapolis

A Your truck does have a security system, GM's Passlock. Your ignition key has a built-in resistor whose value is read by the body control module which allows starting the engine. To deter theft, the system will prevent starting for 10 minutes if the wrong key is used. Try your spare key. If the problem persists, the lock cylinder or a poor wiring connection or module may be the culprit.

Q At 30 to 40 mph, my 2013 RAV4 vibrates. The dealer said it was the tires. With new tires and $900 later, I have the same vibration. Any thoughts?

— S.S., Orland Park, Ill.

A There are myriad causes of vibrations including motor mounts, universal joints, engine cradle misalignment, rim (wheel) run-out and more. But we have to ask what kind of wheel balancer the dealer used and how carefully the weights were placed on the wheel: Was it capable of testing road force? Hunter Engineering makes perhaps the best with its GSP9700 balancer.

Q I have a 2005 Buick LeSabre that sat in the garage for two years and I now drive. One morning the needle on the temperature gauge went a little past center, which is not normal. My mechanic said the problem was with the temperature gauge; he flushed the cooling system and it worked fine for a while. Then the needle went into the red. My wife is afraid to ride in this car.

— T.D., Easton, Pa.

A Although the gauge could be the culprit, we would try a new temperature sensor, which would cost a lot less money. We would also check the coolant temperature using an infrared, no-contact thermometer, paying particular attention to the radiator for areas of varying temperature which would indicate a restriction.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago IL 60611 or motormouth.trib@verizon.net

Life & Style

US FIRST LADY TO INVICTUS ATHLETES:

'Bring home the gold'

TORONTO (AP)—U.S. first lady Melania Trump on Saturday encouraged the American team participating in an Olympic-style competition for wounded service members and veterans to take their "fighting spirit" and "bring home the gold."

Mrs. Trump also applauded the team members for their contributions, calling them "our heroes."

"On behalf of my husband and our entire country, I want to thank you and your families for all you have sacrificed to keep us safe," she said at a reception at a downtown Toronto hotel for the nearly 100 U.S. athletes competing in the Invictus Games, a creation of Britain's Prince Harry.

"I also want to wish you good luck, though I know you won't need it in these games," Mrs. Trump said. "Take that fighting spirit that I know you have and bring home the gold."

During the opening ceremonies Saturday night, Mrs. Trump joined Prince Harry in a VIP box and stood and applauded when Team USA was introduced. She also stood for Canada's team.

Earlier, the first lady shook hands with some of the athletes and posed for photos before she departed for a reunion with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose country is hosting the games; his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau; and two of the couple's three children. Mrs. Trump had seen Trudeau this week in New York during the U.N. General Assembly.

Her first piece of business after arriving earlier Saturday was to visit with Prince Harry.

Mrs. Trump was heard telling the prince, whom she was meeting for the first time, that she had just arrived on a flight from Washington. President Donald Trump was spending the weekend at his golf club in central New Jersey.

"Nice to meet you," Harry said as they were introduced and shook hands. They stood together and smiled for the British and American news media before sitting in adjoining club chairs placed in front of their countries' respective flags.

Harry remarked on how busy the first lady has been. She was in New York this week for Trump's address at the U.N., delivered an address of her own at a U.N. luncheon, and on Friday joined children to plant, harvest and wash vegetables grown in a garden on the White House lawn.

"Yes, very busy," she said, before offering a compliment in return. "You're doing a fantastic job," she said.

Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Trump, said the first lady and Prince Harry chatted about the competition during their approximately 20-minute meeting and joshed about which country would take home the most medals. She also invited him to the White House the next time he visits Washington.

Mrs. Trump led a U.S. delegation to the third annual games that included Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, professional golfer Nancy Lopez and entertainer Wayne Newton, a celebrity spokesman for a memorial to honor American Indian and Alaska Native veterans.

Grisham said the first lady feels strongly that service members, veterans and their families should be honored daily and that her decision to lead the delegation reflected her "utmost respect" for their hard work, courage and sacrifices.

Mrs. Trump also has "great admiration" for how the games help empower those who have been injured in service.

Prince Harry, a military veteran who served two tours of duty in Afghanistan, established the Invictus Games in 2014 for sick and wounded service members and veterans from around the globe. More than 550 people from 17 countries are expected to compete in various sports, ranging from cycling to wheelchair tennis to sitting volleyball, during the weeklong competition.

London was the setting for the inaugural event in 2015, followed by Orlando, Florida, last year.

Mrs. Trump's participation continues White House involvement with the games, which began during President Barack Obama's tenure.

Jill Biden, wife of then-Vice President Joe Biden, led the U.S. delegation to London as part of a military initiative undertaken with then-first lady Michelle Obama. Mrs. Obama helped open last year's competition in Florida.

AP

Britain's Prince Harry and First Lady of the United States Melania Trump hold a bilateral meeting ahead of the start of the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto, Canada, Saturday Sept. 23, 2017.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Susana Ines Tenorio Mafnas

Fondly remembered as "**Sue**"

Born to life on April 14, 1941,
our beloved mother, Susana Ines Tenorio Mafnas,
was called to her eternal life on September 21, 2017.

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: †Jesus Pangelinan Mafnas
Parents: †Blas and †Guadalupe Pangelinan Tenorio
Fathers In-Law: †Juan R. Mafnas and †Jose A. Concepcion
Grandson: †Francisco T. Flores

She will forever be remembered in the hearts and lives of her:

Children, In-laws, Grand- and Great-Grand Children:
Blas T. and Cristina L. Mafnas - Tyrone, Jess, Franklin (Caylee), Britney (Vinson, Vaden, Varon, ViJay, Victor), Blas Jude (Tyler, Lathan), Matthew, Ara, Shana, Christopher, and Breanna
Celina M. and Ramon W. Muna - Raymond and Patricia (Ronin Chase), Alaysha, and Jesus
Rufo T. and Ana Liza S. Mafnas - Annika and Miley
Jennifer M. and Richard S. Villagomez - Richard, Susana, Nieves, Ana, Guadalupe, and Jesus
Priscilla T. and Edward C. Dela Cruz - Zachary and Mercedes (Elijah)
Deborah M. Moore

Brothers/Sisters and In-Laws:
†**Jose** P. and Amparo DLG. Tenorio/†Andrea Camacho; †**Merced** T. and †Dionicio C. Torres; †**Dolores** T. and †Roman M. Benavente; **Pedro** P. and Sophia P. Tenorio; **Cecilia** T. and †Marcelino DLG. Camacho; **Juan** P. and Rita V. Tenorio; **Ramona** T. and Jesus T. Attao; †**Jose** P. and Liberty Mafnas; †**Maria** P. Mafnas; **Theresita** P. Mafnas; †**Antonia** M. and David Apatang; and **Antonio** P. and Cynthia C. Mafnas

Mother-in-Law: Victoria P. Concepcion

Aunt: Consolacion T. Sablan (Nan Chong Pitu)

Special Friend: Marian DLG. Tudela

Caretakers: Elsa Quizon and Yolanda Bautista

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, God-children, and friends.

Daily mass of intention is being offered at 6:00 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral and recitation of the holy rosary will be said at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, and Thursday and 7:00 pm on Wednesday.

On **Friday, September 29, 2017**, our beloved Susana will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home in Chalan Kanoa to the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am. Responso, recitation of the holy rosary, and viewing service will follow upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Lunch will be served at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

God Bless and Thank You

The Children of †Jesus P. and †Susana T. Mafnas

‘Kingsman: The Golden Circle’ dethrones ‘It’ with $39M debut

AP
This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Taron Egerton in “Kingsman: The Golden Circle.

NEW YORK (AP)—The R-rated spy comedy “Kingsman: The Golden Circle” displaced the horror sensation “It” as the No. 1 film in North America, while the second “Lego Movie” spinoff of the year didn’t assemble the expected audience.

The 20th Century Fox release opened with a weekend-leading $39 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday. But “It” still continues to pull in record crowds. With $30 million over the weekend, “It” is now the highest-grossing horror film of all time, not accounting for inflation, with $266.3 million thus far. (1973’s “The Exorcist” grossed $232.9 million domestically, or more than $1 billion in 2017 dollars.)

Twentieth Century Fox’s “Kingsman” sequel sought to expand on the 2015 original’s $36.2 million opening, and its $414 million worldwide take. Matthew Vaughn’s sequel returned stars Taron Egerton and Colin Firth, while adding Channing Tatum, Halle Berry and others. Made more for audiences than critics, reviews for the gleefully distasteful spy romp were poor, at 51 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes.

Fox could celebrate an uptick the second time around, albeit a small one. “The Golden Circle” also debuted with $61 million overseas, giving it a $100 million global weekend. Vaughn is planning a third “Kingsman” film.

“We’re seven percent bigger than the last one, which opened on a holiday weekend,” said Chris Aronson, distribution chief for Fox. “We grew the franchise. We’re very happy.”

The Stephen King adaptation “It,” from Warner Bros. and New Line, may have slightly eaten into the ticket sales for “Kingsman.” Few believed “It” would still be such a draw in its third week of release; horror films usually drop severely after release. But the film has already established itself as the biggest hit ever in the month of September — a welcome relief to Hollywood after a dismal August.

The “Lego Movie” spinoff “The Lego Ninjago Movie,” was further off expectations, debuting with $21.2 million. Phil Lord and Chris Miller’s “The Lego Movie” — the 2014 hit that made $469 million worldwide — kicked off a bustling franchise. “Ninjago,” though, is the second spinoff of the calendar year, following February’s “The Lego Batman Movie.”

That release opened with $35 million and grossed $312 million in total — marks that “Ninjago” appears will fall well short of. It may be two “Lego” movies in a year were too many.

“I was hoping we’d do more. I’m disappointed this weekend didn’t come in a little higher,” said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. distribution head. “We know that each one of these ‘Lego’ movies are different properties. This one played young.”

In its second week of release, Darren Aronofsky’s already infamous psychological thriller “mother!” failed to turn the tide. The film, made for $30 million, last week became one of the few movies to receive an “F” CinemaScore on release. The horror parable, starring Jennifer Lawrence, slid to sixth place with $3.3 million, bringing its two-week haul to $13.4 million. Paramount has proudly defended the film as intentionally divisive, daring filmmaking, the kind seldom produced by major studios.

The week also saw the first wave of fall awards contenders in specialty release. The Billie Jean King-Bobby Riggs drama “Battle of the Sexes,” with Emma Stone and Steve Carell; the Boston Marathon bombing survivor tale “Stronger,” with Jake Gyllenhaal; and the Queen Victoria drama “Victoria & Abdul,” starring Judi Dench, all debuted in limited release.

Lionsgate’s “Stronger” grossed $1.7 million on 574 screens. Focus Features’ “Victoria & Abdul” scored a per-theater average of $37,933 on four screens, along with a two-week international total of $12.4 million. And Fox Searchlight’s “Battle of the Sexes” earned $525,000 on 21 screens.

Theaters are suddenly flush again. Though the year is still 4.6 percent behind the pace of 2016, the month of September is up 20 percent, according to comScore.

“The fact that we’re sitting here in September on the verge of what looks like a record-breaking month, powered by the unprecedented success of ‘It,’ tells you how quickly box-office fortunes can rise and fall in this marketplace,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore.

1. **“Kingsman: The Golden Circle,”** $39 million ($61 million international).
2. **“It,”** $30 million ($38.3 million international).
3. **“The Lego Ninjago Movie,”** $21.2 million ($10.5 million international).
4. **“American Assassin,”** $6.3 million ($2.7 million international).
5. **“Home Again,”** $3.3 million.
6. **“mother!”** $3.3 million ($4.6 million international).
7. **“Friend Request,”** $2.4 million.
8. **“The Hitman’s Bodyguard,”** $1.9 million ($15.4 million international).
9. **“Stronger,”** $1.7 million.
10. **“Wind River,”** $1.3 million.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

†ANICIO MERAR

MARCH 31, 1964 - SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Father: †Merar Ngched
Mother: Haruko Ngirameketii
Wife: Serafina Merar
Daughter: Ginian Merar
Sons: Kenny Merar, Kenward Merar, Kevin Merar
Siblings: Lourdes Merar, Johanes Merar, Paschal Merar, Frank Sungino, Morgan Teliu

Christian prayer night at the family residence at Chalan Piao
September 27, 28, and 29, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.
Viewing: CHCC Chapel at 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., September 30, 2017
Burial: To follow at Tanapag Cemetery

Thank you
THE FAMILY

Showtime making series of Clinton-Patterson thriller

NEW YORK (AP)—Showtime has won a bidding war to develop former President Bill Clinton and powerhouse author James Patterson’s upcoming thriller, “The President is Missing,” into a television series.

The network announced the deal Friday, months away from the book’s publication next June.

In the collaboration with Patterson, Clinton provides an insider’s perspective of having been in the White House. It’s the first time that Clinton has helped write fiction.

Showtime’s affiliation with CBS, and the corporation’s boss Leslie Moonves, helped seal the deal. Moonves knows Clinton, and Patterson helps with the production of the CBS series “Zoo” and “Instinct.”

UK: Tate to reunite Picasso nudes for first time since 1932

LONDON (AP)—An exhibition at London’s Tate Modern will reunite three Picasso nudes painted days apart but not displayed together for almost a century, the gallery said Thursday.

“Nude, Green Leaves and Bust,” ‘’Nude in a Black Armchair” and “The Mirror” are boldly colored depictions of the artist’s lover Marie-Therese Walter, all painted in a five-day period of March 1932.

The paintings are held in private collections but are being loaned for an exhibit focusing on Picasso’s work during a single year, 1932. They haven’t been displayed together since Picasso’s exhibitions in Paris and Zurich that year.Announcing details of the show, Tate Modern said that 1932 is now seen as the artist’s “year of wonders,” confirming him as a 20th century master who absorbed and transcended styles including Cubism and surrealism.

But curator Achim Borchardt-Hume said that at the time people were asking: “Is he still valid or is he over?”

“He was very aware of people asking that question.”

“Picasso 1932—Love, Fame, Tragedy” includes more than 100 paintings, sculptures and works on paper by the Spanish artist, who at the time was 50 and living in Paris. Highlights include “The Dream,” another portrait of Walter that is considered among Picasso’s greatest works. It was once owned by Las Vegas casino mogul Steve Wynn, who put his elbow through the canvas in 2006 just after agreeing to sell it for $139 million.

The show will explore the interplay between Picasso’s work and his life—including a complicated love life which Borchardt-Hume said draws comparisons to the much-married King Henry VIII.

But the curator said it wouldn’t reduce the artist to “salacious love affairs.”

“One of the things we will try to do is actually go back to Picasso as an artist, who like any other artist faced the question every morning when he got up: What to do next?” he said.

The show was organized by Tate and the Picasso Museum in Paris, where it will run—without the three nudes—from Oct. 10 to Feb. 11.

The exhibit is scheduled to open at Tate Modern on March 8, 2018 and runs to Sept. 9.

British actor, director Fiennes gets his Serbian passport

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)— British actor and director Ralph Fiennes has received a Serbian passport from the Balkan country's president after he was granted citizenship earlier this month.

President Aleksandar Vucic handed the passport to Fiennes at a meeting Sunday in the Serbian presidency building in Belgrade. Vucic says "we Serbs are happy to have you as a friend and now a fellow citizen."

Fiennes first came to Serbia in 2010 to shoot his directorial debut, an adaptation of William Shakespeare's "Coriolanus." Fiennes is currently filming a movie in Belgrade on Soviet ballet dancing legend Rudolf Nureyev.

Fiennes also attended an inauguration ceremony for Vucic in June.

American action hero Steven Seagal is among other film celebrities who have been granted Serbian citizenship in the past.

AP

British actor and director Ralph Fiennes, left, shakes hands with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, during a meeting, in Belgrade, Serbia, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017.

Stalin's bust unveiled in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP)—A series of busts of the nation's Soviet-era leaders, including Josef Stalin, were unveiled Friday by a Russian government-sponsored association, in a move that has drawn criticism from those who see it as part of efforts to whitewash his crimes.

The Russian Military-Historic Society, an organization founded by President Vladimir Putin and led by his culture minister, unveiled the sculptures in order to expand its "alley of rulers" at a Moscow park, which until now had featured busts of Russian monarchs. It described the new display as part of efforts to preserve Russian history.

The Kremlin has distanced itself from the move with Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying he was unaware of it and referring all questions to the organizers.

Putin, a former KGB officer, has avoided open public praise or criticism of Stalin, but he has restored Soviet-era symbols and focused on the nation's Soviet-era achievements rather than Stalinist crimes.

Over recent years, many in Russia have been dismayed by government-sponsored school textbooks that paint Stalin in a largely positive light and by the reconstruction of a Moscow subway station that restored old Soviet national anthem lyrics praising Stalin, as part of its interior decoration.

Kremlin critics have denounced such moves as attempts to whitewash Stalin's image and part of Putin's rollback on democracy.

Stalin led the Soviet Union from 1924 until his death in 1953. Communists and other hardliners credit him with leading the country to victory in World War II and making it a nuclear superpower, while others condemn the brutal purges that killed millions.

Polls show that a rising number of Russians now admire Stalin as a strong leader. Earlier this year, Stalin came out top in a survey of the most outstanding figures in Russia's history, with 38 percent support. The nationwide poll by the Levada Center of 1,600 people had a 3.4-percent margin of error.

Yevgeny Tupitsin, a military veteran who attended Friday's opening, welcomed the display of Soviet leaders' busts, including that of Stalin.

"It inspires us to remember the history the way it is, with all the good and bad, positive and negative factors," he said. "History can't be changed, it can't be falsified. It all happened and passed."

Nobel laureate Soyinka to teach in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP)— Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka says being a traveling teacher has become "a way of life" as he takes up a post as visiting professor at the University of Johannesburg.

The 83-year-old Nigerian playwright and author told students and journalists at the South African university on Friday that the benefit of encountering different cultures during his journeys is that "one does not stagnate."

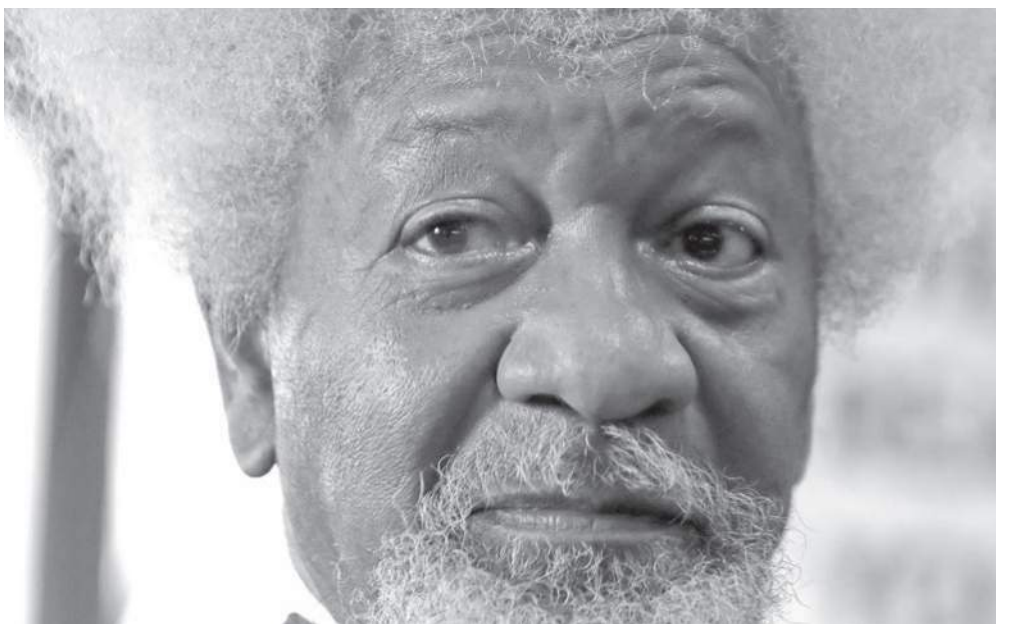
Soyinka, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1986, has lectured at universities around the world. He said he and his Johannesburg students might create a play together, as well as discuss history and international relations along with literature.

"Absolutely nothing is outside the scope of my interests in this interaction," Soyinka said. He drew laughs when he added: "What I don't know, I'll pretend that I know."

The university said it hopes Soyinka's periodic presence on campus will boost plans to set up a creative writing program.

South Africa is a traditional hub of migrant literature and art, including theater, according to Soyinka. A fierce critic of past Nigerian military rulers, he was jailed in the late 1960s during the country's civil war.

"I am very much an itinerant teacher," Soyinka said. "And so moving from one institution to the other has become a way of life, not planned as such, but that's the way it happens."



In this Friday, Sept. 22, 2017 photo, Nigerian playwright and author Wole Soyinka, speaks during a media conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. Nobel laureate Soyinka says being an itinerant teacher has become "a way of life" as he takes up a post as visiting professor at the University of Johannesburg.

AP

Alcoholic recognizes sober truths after wife leaves him

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 17 years to the love of my life. I met her 40 years ago while we were growing up in the same neighborhood. Last year she decided our marriage is over.

Nine years into our marriage, I became an alcoholic. Try as I might, I couldn't find a way to stop drinking. Year after year she stuck by me, hoping something would change. I never laid a hand on her, but I was verbally abusive at times while I was drinking.

Last year I found out that, due to my drinking, I had developed a heart condition that may end my life. I think it was the last straw for her because even after getting the news, I continued to drink. Seven months ago she told me we are done.

Since the day she said it, I have been clean and sober, and my heart is getting stronger. I have tried contacting her, but she won't return my calls or letters. I know the trust is gone, but I so badly want my wife back. I don't think she believes I'm finally sober because we have gone down this road many times.

How do I prove to her that I have changed and it will no longer be an issue? This is breaking my heart and has given me an insight into what she must have been feeling all these years.

LEARNED THE HARD WAY IN INDIANA

DEAR LEARNED: The best way to prove to your wife that you have changed and won't fall off the wagon again is to continue living a clean and sober lifestyle. If you have friends or family in common, when they see what you are accomplishing every day, they may mention it to her. Even if you receive no response, continue writing to her and describing how your health is improving. I can't guarantee it will bring her back, but it may help.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for two years and are doing great. We both have careers we enjoy. However, he makes more money in a week than I sometimes earn in a month. Neither of us has financial problems, but I feel like this makes him superior to me.

Am I shallow for comparing the two of us this way? He assures me that he will love me the same regardless of how much money I make, or even if I choose not to work at all.

We have been talking about buying a house and moving in together. Should I give in and let him "take care of me," or consider higher-paying job opportunities that would allow me to feel better about myself and pull my fair share of the weight?

KRISTIN IN NEW YORK

DEAR KRISTIN: You need to ask yourself why your self-esteem is tied to how much money you earn. According to your boyfriend, you ARE pulling your fair share of the weight. You say you enjoy your career. I would hate to see you sacrifice it in order to go to a job every day that you may be less happy doing because you earn less than your boyfriend.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

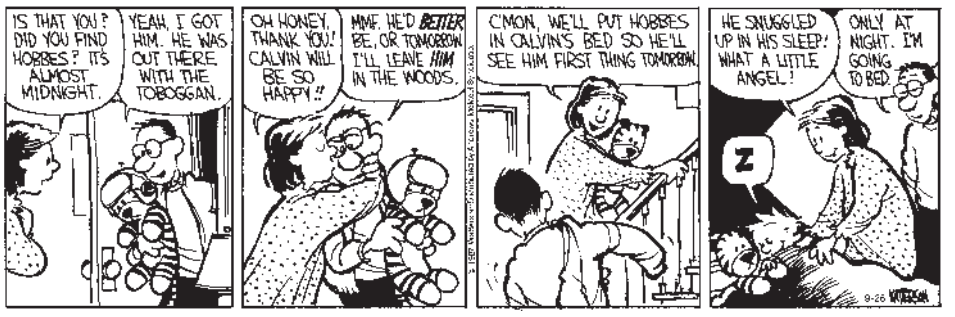
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IS THAT YOU? DID YOU FIND HOBBES? IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT.
YEAH, I GOT HIM. HE WAS OUT THERE WITH THE TOBOGGAN.
OH HONEY, THANK YOU! CALVIN WILL BE SO HAPPY!!
MMF. HE'D BETTER BE, OR TOMORROW I'LL LEAVE HIM IN THE WOODS.
C'MON, WE'LL PUT HOBBES IN CALVIN'S BED SO HE'LL SEE HIM FIRST THING TOMORROW.
HE SNUGGLED UP IN HIS SLEEP! WHAT A LITTLE ANGEL!
ONLY AT NIGHT. I'M GOING TO BED.
Z
9-26

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD. DAN DIDN'T LIKE THE PICTURE BOOK IDEA.
YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS RATTLING AROUND IN THERE?
NO. I'VE GONE BLANK.
I'VE GOT NOTHING. I'LL NEVER HAVE AN IDEA AGAIN. I'M A TOTAL SHAM.
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE MY SHAM.
DON'T CHEER ME UP. THIS IS A THERAPEUTIC SNIT.
9-26

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

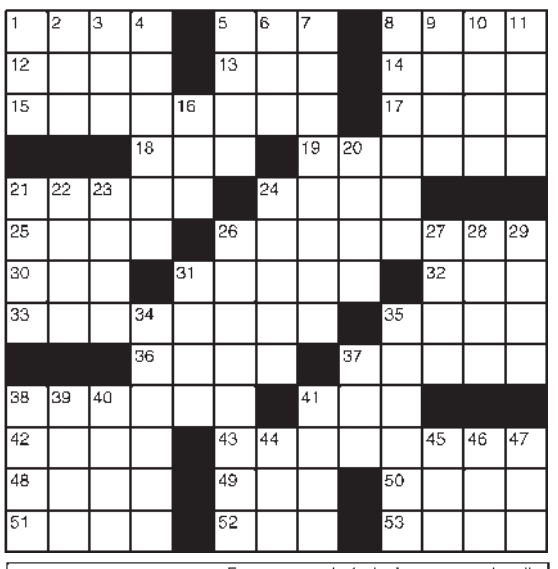
ACROSS
1 Teensy bit
5 USMC rank
8 Alphabet quartet
12 Cougar
13 Meadow
14 "The Lion King" lioness
15 Intellectuals
17 Sketched
18 Actor Cariou
19 Diamond makeup
21 Prestigious prize
24 Bear lair
25 Always
26 Revolvers, e.g.
30 Goat's plaint
31 Radio knob
32 Reaction to fireworks
33 Seasoned pros
35 Cowboy's neckwear
36 Race place
37 Destined
38 Pang
41 Distant
42 Kite flier's need
43 Strong apprehension
48 Formerly
49 Sportage maker
50 Vega's constellation
51 Char
52 Devious
53 Revolution period

DOWN
1 Gorilla
2 Towboat
3 Texter's "Wow!"
4 Composer Gustav
5 Blueprint
6 Nourished
7 Waterfalls
8 NBC journalist Mitchell
9 Biting remark
10 Nile queen, familiarly
11 Sunup
16 Moray, for one
20 Say it's so
21 Jules Verne captain
22 Cameo shape
23 Rosary component
24 Model Crawford
26 Tanning venues
27 Source
28 Embedded spy
29 Not barefoot
31 Tart flavor
34 Impede
35 Pub regular
37 Passing craze
38 Pairs
39 Sommelier's suggestion
40 Bygone Peruvian
41 TV chef Bobby
44 Tin Man's need
45 Needle hole
46 Mound stat
47 Pitch

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	P	Y		C	A	I	R	O		T	S	K
	T	A		I	G	S	E	N		U	N	C
¯	A	K	E	T	U	R	N	S		R	I	G
			G	I	T		T	A	I	N	T	S
F	I	D	G	E	T		A	L	L	S		
	D	O		S	E	T		E	L	D	E	N
L	E	W	D		D	A	M		S	C	R	E
M	A	N	U	P		N	A	H		W	I	D
		U	K	E	S		L	O	A	N	E	D
D	I	N	F	R	O		T	A	R			
R	O	D		U	N	D	E	R	T	A	K	E
A	T	E		S	A	N	D	S		D	I	S
B	A	H		E	H	A	S	E		Z	A	P

Yesterday's answer 9-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Milian, 36; Serena Williams, 36; Jim Caviezel, 49; Olivia Newton-John, 69.

Happy Birthday: This could be a fruitful year if you go about getting what you want in a practical manner. Don't reveal secrets or let anyone else take care of your personal affairs. Staying in control will ward off setbacks. Taking interest in what you do and following through with your plans will be the best way to bring about positive change. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 28, 33, 42, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Partnerships may need an adjustment. Speak from the heart and you'll come to an agreement and a timeline that works for you. Making travel plans or discussing pursuits that may come with a bit of a learning curve will bring beneficial results. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Joint financial endeavors are discouraged. It is best not to take someone's word about an investment that has risk involved. Do your own thing and put your energy into your own advancement, not helping someone else get ahead. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Hold off and listen. It's important to know the complete set of circumstances before you make a decision that could alter a relationship you have with someone. Trust will be a factor in how you move forward. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your thoughts and your emotions undercover. It is best to wait and see what others have to say before you go out on a limb. Focus inward and work on self-improvement instead of trying to change everyone around you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Network with the people you can learn something from. Be careful not to fall into a trap set by someone with ulterior motives. Gather information and fact-check everything you hear. A change at home will turn out to be beneficial. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Personal problems will prevail. Deal with children and older relatives carefully. Use intelligence rather than force to coax others to do things your way. Nurture a special relationship with someone you love. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Do your own thing and avoid getting involved in situations that involve institutions. Do your own legwork and summarize what you have to get done in order to be successful. An honest day's work will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't be fooled by what someone is saying. Pitching in and helping is a nice gesture, but not if someone is taking advantage of you. Invest more time into what you want to achieve. A physical improvement will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* It is best to stick to what's most familiar. If you venture too far off the beaten path, you will encounter situations that are confusing or emotionally challenging. Problems with siblings or peers are best avoided. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Hidden matters will be divulged. Keep your personal information, documents and passwords tucked away. Stay focused on what you can do to improve your position. Avoid anyone who appears to be out of control. Make a promise to someone you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Getting involved in an event that will bring you in contact with other people who work in your industry will lead to unexpected proposals. Consider what's being offered and the best way to take advantage of the opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll feel limited by someone who depends on you. Try to be patient, but don't miss out on something because you have agreed to unreasonable demands. Be straightforward about what you will and will not do. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, interesting and playful. You are outgoing and popular.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		5			
		8	3		7			
4	1			8			2	
			8		2		3	4
		5			9			
8	2		4		3			
	7			6			5	1
		4			5	8		
		1			9			

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	2	1	5	8	7	3	6	4
8	6	7	3	1	4	5	9	2
5	3	4	2	9	6	8	7	1
7	1	8	4	3	9	6	2	5
2	4	3	6	7	5	9	1	8
6	9	5	8	2	1	7	4	3
3	5	9	7	4	2	1	8	6
4	7	6	1	5	8	2	3	9
1	8	2	9	6	3	4	5	7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/25

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SHOELACES Solution: 8 letters

T	R	R	H	E	M	A	G	L	E	T	S	N	B	R
R	I	O	E	I	K	C	O	L	S	W	O	R	A	E
A	U	G	U	F	D	K	A	D	O	T	A	L	C	Ⓟ
I	N	N	H	N	L	D	N	B	T	S	U	R	Ⓞ	P
N	S	O	N	T	D	E	E	O	S	B	I	Ⓞ	L	O
E	G	L	T	E	E	E	C	N	U	M	Ⓛ	D	A	C
R	N	N	R	I	R	N	I	T	P	D	R	O	C	R
S	I	O	T	U	E	S	H	E	I	T	O	U	E	I
R	R	B	C	S	A	T	D	T	Y	V	P	B	S	S
E	T	E	O	C	O	I	E	N	A	E	E	L	F	S
K	S	O	C	O	S	L	N	I	N	S	L	E	L	C
A	L	O	T	P	T	A	H	E	E	L	S	E	A	R
E	M	W	L	R	R	S	M	R	A	H	C	E	T	O
N	A	A	U	G	G	C	O	L	O	R	F	U	L	S
S	Y	T	U	R	Q	U	O	I	S	E	R	A	T	S

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Aglets, Boots, Bows, Brass, Charms, Colorful, Copper, Cord, Cotton, Crimped, Crisscross, Display, Double, Ends, Eyelets, Flat, Game, Granny, Heels, Hidden, Laces, Ladder, Lock, Long, Loop, Loosen, Moccasins, No Tie, Reflective, Rope, Round, Runners, Sawtooth, Secure, Sneakers, Star, Strings, Tassels, Tighten, Trainers, Tubular, Turquoise, Turtle

Yesterday's Answer: Putter

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF Sinbad Suda An Incompetent By Linda Suda Petitioner	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0383 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Linda Suda, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before Judge Kim-Tenorio on the 16th day of October, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB17-CHCC/HA-004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 02, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/PHARMACY-30

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"OUT-PATIENT FURNISHING, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 10:00AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/PHARMACY-29

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"AREA 10 REFURBISHMENT, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Red Sox top Reds, zero in on AL East title

CINCINNATI (AP)— Mookie Betts wasn't about to stop. Neither are the Red Sox, who are heading home with a chance to win another division title.

Betts doubled with the bases loaded to tie it in the eighth inning and dashed home from second base on an infield single, rallying the Red Sox to a 5-4 victory Sunday that moved them closer to an AL East championship.

By winning 14 of its last 17 games, Boston has left virtually no opening for the second-place New York Yankees to catch up. The Red Sox, already assured a playoff spot, completed an 8-1 road trip that put them in excellent position to win a second consecutive division crown, something they've never done.

Coupled with New York's 9-5 loss in Toronto, the Red Sox reduced their magic number to three. They lead the Yankees by five games with seven to play.

That means Fenway Park can start preparing for a potential celebration. Boston finishes the regular season at home with three games against Toronto and four vs. Houston.

"We're learning a lot about ourselves," said Doug Fister, who pitched into the sixth. "We can put ourselves in a corner early and fight back. If we need a touchdown, the boys can put up a touchdown."

AP
Boston Red Sox left fielder Andrew Benintendi catches a fly out from Cincinnati Reds' Joey Votto in the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017, in Cincinnati.

Diamondbacks 3, Marlins 2

In Phoenix, J.D. Martinez lined a two-out RBI single to deep left field with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Miami Marlins to clinch the top wild card in the National League.

The Diamondbacks, who won only 69 games a year ago but are 90-66 this season, were assured a playoff berth in the fourth inning after St. Louis and Milwaukee lost. The comeback victory ensured Arizona will host the NL wild-card game Oct. 4.

Fernando Rodney (5-4) pitched a perfect inning for the win.

Rockies 8, Padres 4

In San Diego, Gerardo Parra hit a tiebreaking single in a two-run third inning, Pat Valaika and Charlie Blackmon hit consecutive home runs in the ninth and Colorado opened a two-game lead over Milwaukee for the second NL wild card. At 41-40, the Rockies tied their record for road wins, set in 2009.

German Marquez (11-7) allowed two runs, five hits and three walks in five innings.

Cubs 5, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Jose Quintana (7-3) pitched a three-hitter and struck out 10 in his second big league shutout as Chicago opened a 5+-game lead over second-place Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Kris Bryant hit a go-ahead double in the fourth off Chase Anderson (11-4), Ben Zobrist had a two-run homer in the seventh and Anthony Rizzo added a two-run double in the eighth against Carlos Torres.

Pirates 4, Cardinals 1

In Pittsburgh, Seung Hwan Oh (1-6) allowed a go-ahead, two-run homer in the fifth to Starling Marte and rookie Jordan Luplow also went deep as St. Louis fell 2+ games behind the Rockies.

Jameson Taillon (8-7) allowed one run and four hits in five innings. Five pitchers combined for hitless relief, with Felipe Rivero striking out two in a perfect ninth for his 19th save.

Blue Jays 9, Yankees 5

In Toronto, Jose Bautista had two hits and a walk in what was likely his final home game with the Blue Jays, leaving to a standing ovation during the ninth inning. Bautista, who turns 37 next month, is hitting .203 with 22 homers and 62 RBI, and Toronto appears unlikely to exercise its half of a $17 million mutual option.

Aaron Judge homered twice for the Yankees, increasing his AL-leading total to 48— one shy of the major league rookie record set by Mark McGwire in 1987. Judge has 11 home runs in September.

A day after clinching a postseason berth, New York dropped five games behind AL East-leading Boston with seven games to play.

Dodgers 3, Giants 1

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw (18-4) became the NL's first 18-game winner, pitching shutout ball until Mac Williamson's home run in the eighth, his final inning.

Kershaw lowered his league-best ERA to 2.21 and struck out six to become the first Dodgers pitcher to reach 200 seven times.

Brandon Morrow worked a perfect ninth for his second save.

Indians 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Corey Kluber (18-4) won his sixth straight start and struck out 10 in becoming the AL's first 18-game winner, allowing Ben Gamel's tying two-run homer in the fifth, which stopped his scoreless streak at 26 2/3 innings.

Jose Ramirez's 29th home run put Cleveland ahead in the sixth against Mike Leake (3-1). Cody Allen worked the ninth for his 29th save as Cleveland won for the 29th time in 31 games and eliminated Seattle.

Twins 10, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Jorge Polanco hit a solo homer in the first off Buck Farmer (4-5), Eduardo Escobar welcomed Victor Alcantara with a three-run drive in the sixth and Minnesota completed a four-game sweep, outscoring Detroit 39-12.

Minnesota has a 4 1/2-game lead over the Los Angeles Angels and a 5+-game advantage over Kansas City and Texas for the second AL wild card.

Angels 7, Astros 5

In Houston, Luis Valbuena hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh and Justin Upton tacked on an insurance run with a solo homer in the eighth, helping Los Angeles Angels snap a six-game skid.

The Angels are 4 1/2 games behind Minnesota for the second AL wild card.

Valbuena hit his bases-loaded, go-ahead double with no outs off Chris Devenski (8-5). Keynan Middleton (6-1) pitched a scoreless sixth for the win.

White Sox 8, Royals 1

In Chicago, Lucas Giolito (3-3) allowed one run in seven innings, Avisail Garcia drove in three runs with his 18th homer and Chicago dropped Kansas City 5+ games behind the Twins.

Ian Kennedy (4-13) allowed five runs in 5 1/3 innings as he lost his seventh straight decision.

Athletics 8, Rangers 1

In Oakland, Khris Davis hit his 41st home run, a drive off Martin Perez (12-12) in a five-run fifth inning, as Oakland extended its winning streak to a season-high seven.

Jharel Cotton (9-1) pitched five shutout innings of one-hit ball to win his fourth straight decision, dropping the Rangers 5 1/2 games behind Minnesota.

Orioles 9, Rays 4

In Baltimore, J.J. Hardy hitting a crowd-pleasing, go-ahead two-run homer off Chris Archer (9-12) in what was likely his last home game with Baltimore. Rookie Chance Sisco also homered for the Orioles, who earned a split of the four-game series to finish 46-35 at home.

Mychal Givens (8-1) got five outs for the win, dropped the Rays six games behind Minnesota with six to play.

Nationals 3, Mets 2

In New York, Max Scherzer (16-6) struck out 10 and allowed three hits over six innings as Washington clinched home-field advantage in the NL Division Series.

Trea Turner hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off Jacob deGrom (15-10), and Jose Lobaton had an RBI single.

Phillies 2, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Nick Pivetta (7-10) allowed five hits in six innings to outpitch Luiz Gohara (1-3) in a matchup of rookies, and Mikael Franco hit a tiebreaking home run in the fifth as Atlanta finished 37-44 in its first season at SunTrust Park.

Aaron Altherr added an RBI double in the eighth off A.J. Minter. Hector Neris pitched out of trouble for his 24th save.

Wade weighing options after agreeing to Bulls' buyout

MIAMI (AP)— Dwyane Wade is about to become a free agent, and he's hoping that doesn't last for long.

Wade and the Chicago Bulls agreed to terms on a buyout agreement Sunday, a person with direct knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press. Wade is considering several options, including a potential return to Miami or a reunion with longtime friend LeBron James in Cleveland, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the buyout has not been formally announced.

Wade will have other suitors, as well. ESPN reported San Antonio is a possible landing spot, and Oklahoma City— which added Paul George this summer and will formally complete the trade with New York for Carmelo Anthony on Monday—would also seem to make sense as well.

Wade, speaking to the AP on Sunday night, indicated he wants to get his next deal done quickly.

"I'm going to take tonight and some of tomorrow and speak to the teams or players that are on my list and go from there," Wade said. "My decision is a pure basketball decision and I'll make the one that fits me best at this point in my career, and with what I feel I have to offer a team that needs what I have to offer."

Here's what he has to offer: Even at 35, he's still a scorer, and as a three-time champion, he's a proven winner. Wade averaged 18.3 points for Chicago last season and returned from injury down the stretch to help the Bulls get into the playoffs. Over his 14 seasons, Wade has averaged 23.3 points, been to the playoffs 12 times, and took home the 2006 NBA Finals MVP award.

He went to Chicago with great intentions—after all, it is his hometown. But the Bulls of a season ago featured him, Jimmy Butler and Rajon Rondo. Butler got traded to Minnesota in what essentially was the start of a rebuild for the Bulls this summer, and Rondo is now with the New Orleans Pelicans. Chicago isn't expected to be a playoff contender this season, and that would have been a rough spot for Wade at this point.

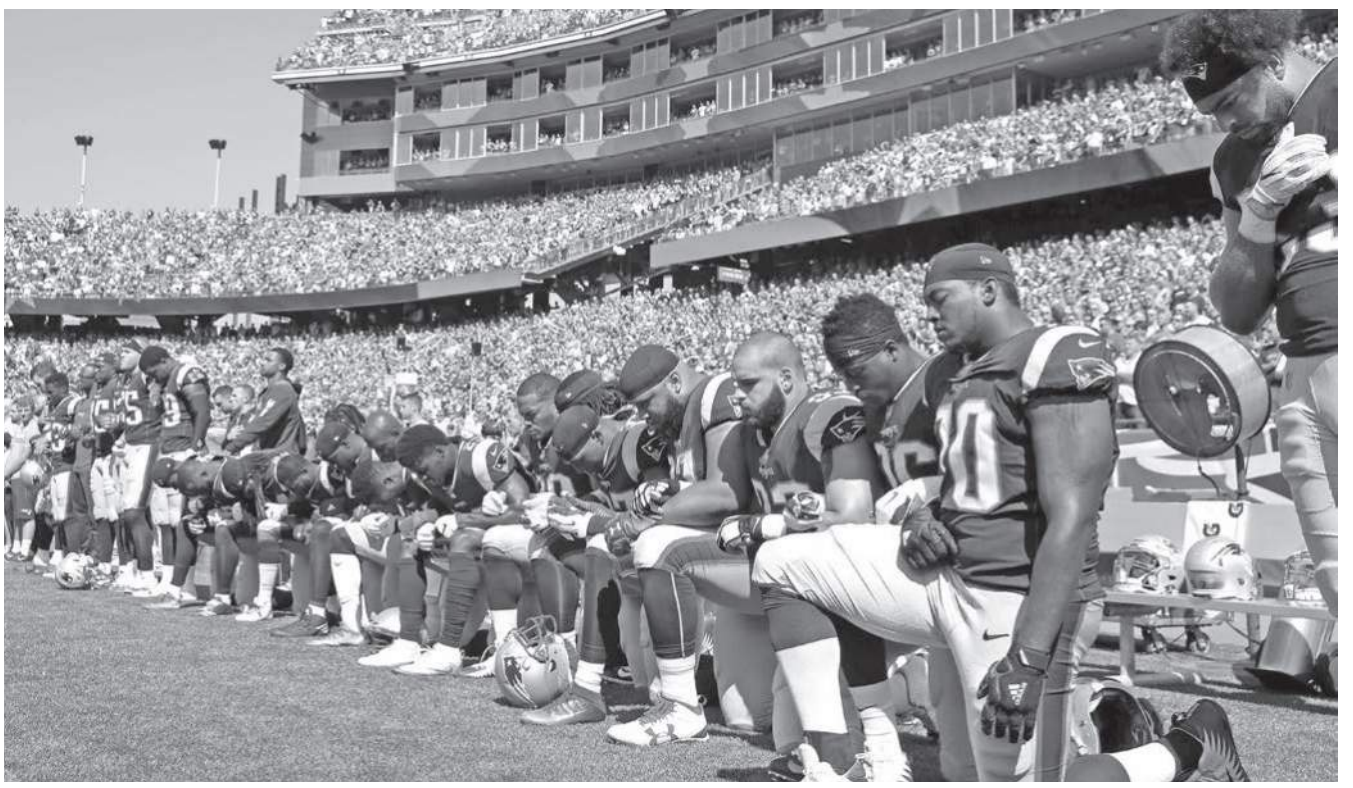
"We're going in different directions," Wade said.

Miami has a $4.3 million exception available if they choose to pursue Wade. Cleveland or Oklahoma City would only be able to offer about half that, and the Cavaliers—even if they got Wade for $2.5 million— would likely be adding several million more on what could be an enormous luxury tax bill after the season. But the Cavs have James and three straight Eastern Conference titles, two facts that will surely be appealing to Wade.

Wade is close with Anthony, which also brings the Thunder into serious play. The wild card could be Miami, where Wade has kept his home and his popularity. Plus, Heat teammates have made little secret that they would welcome him back with open arms.

Heat President Pat Riley said late last week that he is still in love with Wade. He could not discuss the possibility of trying to bring Wade back to the Heat because NBA tampering rules do not allow such conversations about players under contract with other clubs.

Memorable displays of unity, fantastic finishes



AP
Several New England Patriots players kneel during the national anthem before an NFL football game against the Houston Texans, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

NEW YORK (AP)—For one of those rare times, the focus at NFL stadiums was on what happened before the games. What occurred on the sidelines, or in the tunnels leading to the locker rooms.

The Associated Press observed more than 200 players around the NFL kneeling or sitting during the national anthem on Sunday.

The highest total was in Washington before the nationally televised night game, where nearly the entire Oakland Raiders team protested, in addition to six Redskins. No one sat or knelt at the Pittsburgh at Chicago game, although the Steelers stayed in the tunnel. In Tennessee, both the Titans and Seattle Seahawks remained inside through the anthem.

After those extraordinary demonstrations of unity by players, coaches, staff and owners, the action Sunday could have been anticlimactic. Instead, the league delivered some scintillating stuff punctuated by fantastic finishes in Detroit, Foxborough, Green Bay, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Following two weeks of, well, blah, the NFL gave us WOW.

"Awesome, awesome, awesome," Eagles coach Doug Pederson said after Jake Elliott boomed a 61-yard field goal to beat the Giants as time expired, 27-24.

Yep.

"I've never seen anything like it," noted Falcons receiver Mohamed Sanu after Detroit had a go-ahead touchdown with 8 seconds remaining taken away by replay -- and the Lions lost any chance for another play because of a relatively obscure rule requiring a 10-second runoff.

Yep.

"You always dream about stuff like that but it never happens, so it was real crazy," Bears running back Jordan Howard said following his 19-yard TD to beat Pittsburgh in overtime. That came moments after rookie Tarik Cohen sped 73 yards to win it, only to discover his tip-toeing on the sideline wasn't precise enough. "Definitely, it was a very wacky game but through everything that happened we found a way to win."

Wacky, yep, but given what we'd seen thus far in 2017, very welcome.

The NFL tends to have weekends where about the only predictable thing is that they will actually play the games. Exhilaration usually comes deeper into the schedule, when teams have created an identity—then perform directly opposite of that identity.

This year, it came in September. Consider:

The Jaguars were blown out by Tennessee in their only game so far in Jacksonville. But they are 2-0 elsewhere after a 44-7 annihilation of previously unbeaten Baltimore in London on Sunday.

The J-E-T-S got their initial W-I-N over archrival Miami, which looked more like the rebuilding franchise than did New York.

New Orleans' Swiss cheese defense turned into an opportunistic wall in a 34-13 romp at previously undefeated Carolina.

Buffalo, which almost never wins if LeSean McCoy doesn't run wild, knocked off unbeaten Denver despite McCoy being mediocre.

But for true excitement, the nail-biters at Ford Field, Soldier Field, the Linc, Gillette Stadium and Lambeau couldn't be beat.

And boy, did the NFL need it.

"Everyone came together to make the plays to help us win," Patriots star tight end Rob Gronkowski said somewhat breathlessly. Tom Brady had driven New England 75 yards on eight plays and thrown his fifth TD pass of the night, 25 yards to Brandin Cooks, with 23 seconds remaining for the 36-33 victory over Houston. "It just shows how big of a team game this is, NFL football. That was a great NFL football game. After that win I was like, `That's what NFL football is right there.' You've got great players on both sides of the ball, on the defensive side, the offensive side of both teams and everyone fighting to the end."

Falcons hold on amid late confusion

DETROIT (AP)—The Atlanta Falcons escaped Detroit, holding on for a win thanks in part to an NFL rule that went in their favor.

Matthew Stafford's pass to Golden Tate was ruled to be just short of the end zone in the final seconds after a review, allowing Atlanta to beat the Lions 30-26 on Sunday.

The call on the field was touchdown when Stafford connected with Tate on a slant from the 1 with 8 seconds left, but it was overturned because the receiver was down before the football reached the goal line. By rule, 10 seconds had to run off the clock and that ended the game because Detroit didn't have any timeouts.

"Had the call on the field been correct initially, the clock would have run out," FOX analyst Dean Blandino, an ex-NFL officiating chief, explained in a tweet: "That's the spirit of the rule."

Lions coach Jim Caldwell agreed that the call was made correctly and the rule was applied properly. He added, though, that Stafford could have taken another snap if the call on the field was made correctly initially that Tate was down inside the 1.

Eagles 27, Giants 24

In Philadelphia, Jake Elliott kicked a 61-yard field goal as the clock expired.

Eli Manning threw three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter, including a 77-yard score to Sterling Shepard, but Philadelphia (2-1) rallied twice.

Carson Wentz tossed a 19-yard pass to Alshon Jeffery to set up Elliott's kick. The rookie was a fifth-round pick by the Bengals and joined the Eagles after Caleb Sturgis was injured in Week 1.

Patriots 36, Texans 33

In Foxborough, Tom Brady connected with Brandin Cooks for a 25-yard touchdown pass with 23 seconds left, his fifth TD throw of the game.

Brady finished 25 of 35 for 378 yards as New England (2-1) won its fifth straight regular-season meeting with Houston (1-2) and seventh of eight overall.

Cooks caught five passes for 131 yards and pair of scores. It was the fifth multi-touchdown game and eighth 100-yard game of his career.

Bears 23, Steelers 17, OT

In Chicago, Jordan Howard scored on a 19-yard run in overtime to lead the Bears.

Howard's winning score came two plays after rookie Tarik Cohen broke off an electric run for what appeared to be a 73-yard winning touchdown. But he was ruled out at the Pittsburgh 37. Howard took over from there, and the Bears (1-2) came away with a surprising victory.

Howard had 138 of Chicago's 220 yards rushing, making up for a lackluster performance by quarterback Mike Glennon.

Packers 27, Bengals 24

In Green Bay, Mason Crosby kicked a 27-yard field goal with 6:26 left in overtime set up by Aaron Rodgers' 72-yard pass to Geronimo Allison. Crosby's kick completed the Packers' comeback from a 21-7 halftime deficit.

On third-and-10 from his 21, Rodgers took advantage of yet another free play after defensive end Michael Johnson was whistled for offside. Officials let the play continue and the two-time NFL MVP found Allison on about a 40-yard pass before the receiver beat a couple defenders for more yards.

Chiefs 24, Chargers 10

In Carson, Alex Smith threw two touchdown passes in the first 9 + minutes against what used to be his hometown team, Terrance Mitchell had two interceptions and rookie Kareem Hunt scored on a 69-yard run.

The Chiefs (3-0) beat the Chargers for the seventh straight time and have won 12 straight AFC West games.

Titans 33, Seahawks 27

In Nashville, Marcus Mariota threw for 225 yards and two touchdowns, and the Titans scored 21 straight points in rallying to beat the Seahawks.

Pro Bowl running back DeMarco Murray rushed for 115 yards, including a 75-yard TD run. Ryan Succop also kicked four field goals as Tennessee (2-1) scored at least 30 points for a second straight week.

Redskins 27, Raiders 10

In Landover, Kirk Cousins threw for 365 yards and three touchdowns, Chris Thompson had 188 all-purpose yards and a score and Washington sacked Derek Carr four times and held Oakland to 128 yards in a dominating victory.

Cousins was a spectacular 25 of 30, including TD passes to Thompson, Vernon Davis and a 52-yarder to Josh Doctson.

Bills 26, Broncos 16

In Orchard Park, Tyrod Taylor threw two touchdowns and the Bills intercepted Trevor Siemian twice in the final 19 minutes.

Taylor went 20 of 26 for 213 yards with a 2-yard touchdown to Andre Holmes and a 6-yarder to Charles Clay. Taylor got lucky on the touchdown pass to Holmes , as the ball deflected off the hands of Zay Jones just inside the goal line and bounced directly to Holmes in the back of the end zone.

Jets 20, Dolphins 6

In East Rutherford, Josh McCown threw a 69-yard touchdown pass to Robby Anderson, Bilal Powell ran for a score, and the Jets' defense dominated Jay Cutler and the Dolphins.

While a lot of the focus heading into the season was on whether the revamped Jets roster would be good enough to win any games, New York made Miami look like the team in the middle of a rebuild.

Jaguars 44, Ravens 7

In London, Marcedes Lewis caught three of Blake Bortles' four touchdown passes as the Jaguars won in their fifth game in Britain's capital.

Allen Hurns and Leonard Fournette also scored touchdowns for the Jaguars (2-1), who have won each of their last three games played at the venue. This one, by far, was the easiest. The Ravens (2-1) managed just 186 yards of total offense, including minus-1 yard in the first quarter.

Vikings 34, Buccaneers 17

In Minneapolis, Case Keenum gave Minnesota a brilliant performance in relief of Sam Bradford, passing for three touchdowns and a career-high 369 yards without a turnover.

Stefon Diggs had 173 yards receiving and caught two of Keenum's throws for scores, one short and one long .

Dalvin Cook produced 169 total yards plus his first NFL touchdown, which capped a 75-yard drive by the Vikings (2-1) to start the game.

Colts 31, Browns 28

In Indianapolis, Jacoby Brissett ran for two touchdowns, threw for another and the Colts held off Cleveland's late charge.

Brissett, acquired in a trade with New England earlier this month, looked much more comfortable in his second start, going 17 of 24 with 259 yards and running five times for 14 yards. Indy (1-2) avoided its first 0-3 start in six years.

Spigen, Ridhors get second win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Spiden and Tropang Ridhors recorded double-digit wins in the 2nd Alii Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Ken Viray and Mervin Sahagun joined forces in lifting Tropang Ridhors to an 86-76 victory over Vendetta in the first game. In the second match, Spigen outclassed MP Light, 79-63.

The triumph was second in a row for Spigen, while MP Light has yet to break into the win column after two games. Tropang Ridhorse also earned its second victory in as many matches, while Vendetta joined MP Light at the bottom of the team standings in the 12-squad field with its 0-2 card.

Viray exploded for 31 points, while Sahagun added 21 as they alternately nailed baskets in streaks for Tropang Ridhors. Viray had a string of 11 points in the first quarter and 16 in that period alone to give his squad a 30-14 lead.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tropang Ridhors' Emerson Claveria unloads a jumper, while two Green Archers defenders look on during an earlier game in the Alii Blue Haus caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Vendetta tried to mount a comeback in the second canto behind Jun Estolas, but Tropang Ridhors stood its ground, 49-40, thanks to the 9 straight markers of Sahagun.

Vendetta then kept Tropang Ridhors within striking distance in the second half, but it could not overhaul the deficit, as the former failed to neutralize Sahagun and Viray. Estolas led Vendetta's losing cause with his 25 points.

In the curtain-raiser, Spigen recovered from a low start to earn the 10-point winning margin. Spigen was held to 15 markers in the first period, but scored at least 20 points in each of the three remaining quarters to hand MP Light another loss.

Mike Umali and Bruce Berline finished with 16 points apiece to tow Spigen to its second win, while Adrian Flores chipped in 12, making up for the absence of Lerio Pagarao.

Sean Rabasto had 18 points for MP Light, while Naks Gunnacao chipped in 14.

Bud Cup finals in 2 divisions set

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parakeyu! players pose for a photo before their game against Re-Darts in the Kingfisher C division of the SEDA League last week

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Finalists in the A and Flame Tree divisions for the Bud Light Cup of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association were completed with the title match set this week in separate venues.

It was an all-6JMS finals in the A division with the Mafia and Predators contending for the crown after dispatching separate foes in last week's semifinal round.

The Mafia scored a 9-6 upset over regular season champions Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty and faced sister team Predators for the Bud Light Cup A division title. The finals were being played at press time last night at the 6JMS bar in Garapan.

Udas Cepeda, Alfred Hocog, Freddie Solidum, Ray Taitano, and Jess Villar led the Mafia's surprising win in their race-to-nine match up against the Darrty's quintet of James Benavente, Ace Calma, Boom Cruz, Awesome Nunez, and Chico Cruz.

The Predators, on the other hand, completed a 9-4 win over the Franken Gunners to foil the upset bid of the surprise semifinalists. The Gunners finished at the cellar after the regular season where they faced and ousted the lowly Franken Drunken Warriors in the Bud Cup's elimination round.

Ray Castillo, Edsel Delfin, Gigi Gatmaitan, Joel Gruy, and Andrew Prado teamed up to let the Predators earn the needed nine wins against the Gunners' quartet of Derek Ayuyu, George Camacho, A.J. Lizama, and Alfred Manglona.

In the Flame Tree division, the Jonny's Serial Killaz will try to make it two in a row after winning the regular season title. They defeated the Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty, 8-4.

The Naked Fish Na'Gupu, however, stands in their way as they earned the right to face the Killaz following an 8-5 decision against sister team Dartaholiks.

The finals will be played on Thursday, Sept. 28.

Below are the complete results of last week's games:

Masters
- Nakayoshi 13, Calamity Fun 4
- Mafia 9, Pythons 8

Ladies
- Momshies 10, Hot Mess 5
- Exquisites 11, Bull-It II 4

Tuesday B
- Lupeyt Boyz 15, Chamberos 0
- Execuionerz 10, L.O.L. 5
- D'Strikers 9, Warriors 6

Chichirika C
- Knights 15, Bull It 0 (Default)
- Bulls Hitters 12, Scorpions 3
- Flukers 8, Hot Shot 7

Kingfisher C
- Parakeyu! 12, Re-Darts 3
- Hit'em Up 10, Ridin'Darrty 5
- Sunsports 9, Dart Vaders 6

LAOLAO

From Page 28

Bay's management to provide a written letter offering the office space to make the plan formal. Largent added that the CFGA would find ways to provide furniture and other equipment needed for the office along with the air conditioner. CFGA vice president and CNMI Attorney General Ed Manibusan said that he could donate a filing cabinet or a desk for the use of their group.

The group is expected to further discuss the issue about the office space in the monthly meeting set on Sept. 28, Thursday, at 5pm or once they received the written offer from Laolao Bay's management. CFGA secretary-treasurer Ed Manglona, Satur of the Refaluwasch Golf Association and Junior Golf Program, Hiromi Marutani of SCC, Jun En Taeck of the Saipan Golfers Association, and Yuko Togawa and Sunny Kim of the CNMI Women's Golf Association were present in last month's meeting.

In other news, Largent also thanked the management of Saipan's five golf courses—Coral Ocean Point, Kingfisher, Laolao Bay, Marianas Country Club, and Saipan Country Club—for their cooperation and allowing the United States Golf Association course raters from Guam to inspect their respective golf facilities.

Andy Balajadia, Joe James, Jay Huff, and Duke Delisle inspected the five golf courses last month so they could earn professional ratings under USGA standards.

The project is important to CNMI's golf community since it would update the course ratings to see if they meet USGA's handicapping requirements. CFGA is also looking at having the Rota Resort and Country Club get rated.

TEEN

From Page 28

their supporters back home who were able to watch the match were also elated as the CNMI broke its silence in the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournament.

"Scoring even one goal is an extremely difficult task against our opponent," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan said. "We are extremely proud of our U16 boys as we all know how tough the AFC competition is."

"I want to thank our team officials for taking very good care of the team in Bangkok. Same appreciation goes to all the parents as youth soccer can't be successful without the 'year round' support from our parents," the NMIFA head added.

Majority of the members of the CNMI Boys U16 National Team are scheduled to return on Saipan today after playing four matches in the Group G qualifier, which Indonesia topped after earning a perfect 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record. Thailand finished second with its 3-0-1 mark, followed by Timor-Leste (2-0-2), and Laos (1-0-3).

"The boys played with their hearts and gave everything for the team. This competition was a very good learning experience and will now give the boys a clearer idea on how soccer outside of the NMI is played. We would like to thank all the parents who supported the boys from Day 1. Now the boys can't wait to come back home," team manager Rodwealth Espana said.

RYOU

From Page 28

Francis Hartman came out victorious to lead the Top 3 winners.

Hartman, who was in the lower half of the field, ruled the division after a 49-45 win over Hee Chul Ryou.

His road to the title included a 44.5-43 decision over Jae Hyuk Ryu and close 41-40.5 victory against Jin Woo Ryou. Hartman then faced Bangot in the semifinals and their match up needed a second run after they ended up tied at 42. He advanced to the finals after squeezing out a 23.5-22.5 decision over Bangot. Bangot thwarted Ki Tark Kim's bid to earn another podium finish in their battle for third by scoring a 46.5-43.5 win.

Hee Chul Ryou drew a bye in the first round then defeated Carmelino Garcia, 44-37, in the Last 8 and dispatched Ki Taek Kim in the Final Four, 40-31.5. Ki Taek Kim also had a bye then beat James Welley, 44.5-41, and lost to Hee Chul Ryou. Bangot's other win was against Jerome Ortiguerra, 45.5-33. Welley bested Neil Fama, 39.5-37, while Ortiguerra downed Lewis, 30-22.5, in the other first round results.

In the men's intermediate bodybard, Cody Shipman escaped with a 46-45.5 decision over Thomas Reyes in their championship match. Shipman eliminated Ji Yong Lim, 48.5-34.5, to earn a finals berth, while Reyes followed after a 41.5-35 win over Welley. Welley defeated Ji Young Lim, a 30.5-28.5 winner over Hiram Castro, in their battle for third place.

Hee Chul Ryou won against Jin Woo Kim for the men's masters bodyboard division title. He narrowly beat Kim, 46-45.5.

In other results, Paul Suarez earned the men's flowboard championship after defeating Archie Abugan, 55-47.5. His other wins were against Hayden Gifford, 51-35.5, and Jae Won Kim, 52-46.

Abugan disposed off Ezekiel Valdez, 43-28.5, Ortiguerra, 39-36.5, and Jin Woo Kim, 42-41.5, to earn his place in the finals.

Jae Won Kim, meanwhile, escaped with a 46.5-46 result over Jin Woo Kim to earn third place honors.

Jae Won Kim triumphed over Norjay Hipolito, 47.5-34, while Jin Woo Kim conquered Ryuta Onuki, 42-31.5, to advance to the semifinals. Jae Won Kim also scored a 46.5-34 win over Jin Woo Ryou in the first round, while Jin Woo Kim drew a bye.

Gifford beat Nathan Kaipat, 39-36; Norjay Hipolito defeated Austin Barcinas, 41.5-36; Onuki bested Min Kyu Ryou, 40-34; and Ortiguerra emerged victorious over Reyes, 40.5-33.

AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CNMI head coach and NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita, fourth left, joins the coaches of Timor-Leste, Laos, Indonesia, and host Thailand for a group photo during a press conference for Group G of the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers last week at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok.

CNMI head coach Michiteru Mita, left, shakes hand with Thailand's Salvador Velero Garcia.

The CNMI players warm up for their game against Thailand.

CNMI goalkeeper coach Jonathan Takano gestures to the members of the CNMI U16 Boys National Team during a meeting.

CNMI head coach Michiteru Mita, right, shares a light moment with Indonesia's Fakhri Husaini.

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team's starting 11 pose for a photo before their match versus Indonesia.

The Teen Ayuyus take notes and listen to the pointers from their coaches.

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team players gather for a group photo during a time off from the tournament.

Red Sox top Reds, zero in on AL East title

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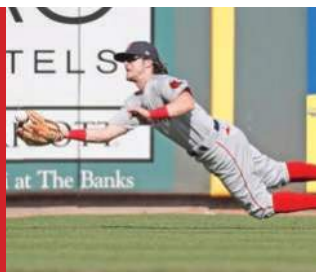

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Memorable displays of unity, fantastic finishes

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JON PEREZ

Cody Shipman propels himself up in one of his routines during his finals match against Thomas Reyes in last Saturday's Pacific Islands Club-Saipan International Point Break Open at the hotel's flowrider facility in San Antonio.

IN POINT BREAK FINALS

Ryou dethrones Kim

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Min Kyu Ryou dethroned last year's champion Jae Won Kim in the finals of the men's pro bodyboard in Pacific Island Club-Saipan's 11th Annual International Point Break Open held over the weekend at the hotel's flowrider facility in San Antonio.

09 22-23

Jae Won Kim was the tournament's top seed after winning last year's event, but could not defend his title with Ryou managing to pull off the upset in one of the closest finals matches of the tournament, 51.5-50

Jae Won Kim drew a bye in the first round of the six-man field and faced Ki Taek Kim in the semifinals. He was almost eliminated as he won by only three points against Ki Taek Kim, 51-48.

It was Jae Won Kim's second straight victory against Ki Taek Kim as he also foiled the latter's title bid last year with a 51.6-44.9 tally.

Ryou, No. 2 after the seeding round, also had a close match against Sai Bangot Jr. with a 51.5-47 scoreline. Ki Taek Kim defeated Jae Hyuk Ryu, 44.5-38, to earn a spot in the semifinals while Bangot followed suit with a 46.5-30 trouncing of J.J. Lewis. Ki Taek Kim nipped Bangot, 46.5-45.5, in their battle for third place.

In the men's open bodyboard division,

See RYOU on Page 26

Teen Ayuyus score in AFC tourney

ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

The CNMI U16 Boys National Team 's Ian Maniago reacts after scoring against Timor-Leste during the second half of their game in the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers last Sunday at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U16 Boys National Team made its first goal in its final game in the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers last Sunday at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.

Ian Maniago lit up the board in the 70th minute of their match versus Timor-Leste to end the Teen Ayuyus' scoring drought and keep the squad's head up despite finishing the tournament winless. Timor-Leste still downed the CNMI, 10-1.

Maniago had the opportunity to find the back of the net when he received a forward pass from Kirt Andon from the backcourt a bit far from the center mark. The ball rolled past Maniago, who chased the leather while two Timor-Leste defenders also sprinted to catch up with the CNMI midfielder. Maniago then caught up with the ball, took a few dribbles, and then unloaded a shot using his left foot. Timor-Leste goalie Filonito Nogueira stepped in and slid trying to block the ball, but was a bit late, allowing a nearly teary-eyed Maniago to celebrate his first international goal.

Maniago's teammates later joined the quick party, while

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Laolao Bay offers help to CNMI golf group

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Laolao Bay Golf and Resort has offered to provide an office space for the CNMI Federation of Golf Associations to give the group a place to operate and further grow the sport in the Commonwealth.

The CFGA may share the office space with the Junior Golf Association, which is being supervised by Laolao golf course operations manager Tony Satur. The facility is next to the driving range at Lao Lao Bay.

The proposal, however, is still under discussion since an air conditioner and office furniture are needed. CFGA president David Largent, during CFGA's meeting last month, said that Satur would also suggest to Laolao

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JON PEREZ

Two golfers play a round at the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.